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Tuesday
15th September, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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THE
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(Part I—Questions and Answers)
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Tuesday, 15th September, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOCK AND BLOCK SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS

***1272. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the number of accidents due to collisions between two trains has shown an increase;

(b) whether on more than one occasion the Government Inspectors of Railways recommended the adoption of "Lock and Block" system on the Railways to obviate such collisions;

(c) if so, the measures Government have adoped to introduce the "Lock and Block" system; and

(d) any other measures, which Government propose to adopt to eliminate collisions between trains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Irrespective of the Government Inspectors' recommendations, Lock and Block Instruments are being provided on the Railways, where not already existing, on a programmed basis, within the limits of funds and materials available.

(d) The information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 24.]

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know whether there is any central workshop where research and experimental tests are carried out about the signal system?

Shri Alagesan: Except the Central Standards Office there is no other research institute.

Shri Vittal Rao: In view of the signal system being most backward in India, do Government propose to have a separate organisation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are they to admit that it is most backward? It is just like asking a boy "when did you leave beating your mother?" and if he says "yesterday" he admits it. This kind of, what is called, leading question need not be put. It is embarrassing to Government. Therefore hon. Members will only try to elicit answers to what they do not know and not put questions based on assumptions either one way or the other.

Shri Vittal Rao: There has been a report to this effect by the Chairman, Railway Board.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If there is a report it is for discussion elsewhere.

Shri Alagesan: Without admitting the implication, as you kindly said, Sir, I can say the matter is under consideration.

Shri Vittal Rao: What is the estimated cost of installing the lock and block system throughout the railways?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I cannot give the figure offhand. It will run into crores.

Shri Muniswamy: In answer to part (a) of the question the hon. Minister has said 'No'. May I know whether there was any occasion during the past year when such collisions took place?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, unfortunately there have been one or two collisions which drew the attention of the public. But taking the previous period into consideration, the number of collisions has been less. That is why the answer has been 'No' to part (a).

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is it a fact that these accidents are caused by the irregularity of timing of the trains?

Shri Alagesan: No. Sir.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether there is paucity of funds or paucity of materials to replace the whole Railways with the lock and block system?

Shri Alagesan: I said this is being done on a programmed basis within the limits of funds and materials available.

बेतवा तथा नर्मदा नदियों पर पुल

*१२७३: **श्री चाण्डक** : क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि झांसी और ललितपुर के बीच बेतवा नदी पर तथा सागर और नरसिंगपुर के बीच नर्मदा नदी पर पक्के पुल न होने के कारण यात्रियों को बहुत असुविधा होती है ?

(ख) क्या इन पुलों को बनाने की सरकार ने कोई योजना बनाई है ?

(ग) यदि 'हां' तो इन का काम कब से आरम्भ किया जायेगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The construction of bridges over the Betwa river at Jhararghat on Jhansi-Lalitpur Section of National Highway No. 26. and over the Narmada river at Barman on Sagar-Narsinghpur Section of National Highway No. 26 is provided for in the current five-year programme for the development of National Highways.

(c) It is hoped to start the construction of these bridges in about a year's time.

RAILWAY STATION AT MEHSANA

*1274. **Shri S. G. Parikh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new Railway Station is being constructed at Mehsana?

(b) What amount has been spent so far and what further amount will be necessary to complete the station?

(c) What is the estimated cost?

(d) When was the work started and when is it likely to be completed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The amount so far spent is Rs. 2.78,750/- and the additional funds necessary to complete the Station would amount to Rs. 4,55,700/-.

(c) Rs. 7,34,500/-.

(d) The work was started in the year 1951-52 and the major portion thereof should be completed by the end of this year.

Shri S. G. Parikh: May I know whether diamond crossing has been installed there or not and, if so, at what cost?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are diamond crossings and they are operated.

Shri S. G. Parikh: May I know whether it is put to use or not?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, it is being put to use whenever it is necessary.

Shri Dabhi: What passenger amenities, including installation of water coolers, construction of third class waiting rooms etc., will be provided at this station?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Third class waiting halls have already been constructed and waiting halls for upper classes are being constructed, and I hope they will be all constructed during the year.

Shri Dabhi: Water facilities?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Water facilities too.

ROAD BRIDGE NEAR KURNOOL

***1275. Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether there was a proposal to construct a road bridge on Tungabhadra River near Kurnool?

(b) If so, at what stage does the matter stand?

(c) Have Government considered the necessity of construction of a road bridge in view of the location of Capital of the Andhra State at Kurnool?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Originally, the Anantapur-Yadcherla section of National Highway No. 7 (Benaras-Cape Comorin Road) was aligned *via* Kurnool and it was proposed to construct a bridge on the National Highway over the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool. Subsequently it was tentatively decided to take the National Highway through Madhavaram and Raichur because a substantial length of the road *via* Kurnool would be submerged on the construction of the proposed Krishna-Pennar Project. The question of construction of a bridge over the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool from National Highway Funds will arise only if it is finally decided to take the National Highway *via* Kurnool. It is proposed to consult the Government of the new Andhra State before finalising the alignment.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know if the Government is aware that the Governor of Madras who inspected Kurnool on the 9th was personally convinced of the necessity of this bridge and has promised the Kurnool Municipality that he would take up the matter with the Central Minister of Railways.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I have explained in detail in the answer which I have read out that unless it is decided to have the national highway *via* Kurnool the question of constructing a bridge near Kurnool will not arise. If that is finally decided in consultation with the new Andhra State then it will be taken up.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Is the Government aware that the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool is a boundary between Hyderabad and Madras States and that trade and commerce between the two States will develop if the bridge is constructed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that only if the question about the national highway is decided this can be taken up, and they have not decided upon it yet.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Is he aware that it is a boundary?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Everybody is aware.

Shri Muniswamy: If the question of the bridge over the Tungabhadra river is finalised, may I know what would be the total amount of expenditure which would be incurred by the Central Government for the construction of such a bridge?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give any estimate of the cost of the bridge just now.

BETEL NUTS

***1276. Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total quantity of betel nuts required for use in this country in the years 1951-52; and

(b) what is the latest tendency with regard to the price of this commodity in this country?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 33 lakh maunds approximately.

(b) A statement showing the trend in prices of indigenous and imported betel nuts is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 25.]

Shri Achuthan: May I know the figure of consumption during 1952-53 and also the figures of import during 1952-53?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The calculation we have made of consumption is approximate. We try to estimate the production, then add to it the imports, and deduct the exports and that is how we have arrived at the figures I have given. That is approximately the annual consumption on an average. During 1950-51 we imported 3·97 lakh maunds, during 1951-52 1·56 lakh maûnds, and during 1952-53 0·53 lakh maunds.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether Government has taken into consideration the cost of production of areca nut in this country before fixing the quota of imports or the duty on imports?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Like other commodities, we have got a special commodity committee for this article also. I am sure all relevant facts are taken into due account and all suggestions considered.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether the Government has received any memorandum from the cultivators of areca nuts in this country that the local production will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the country and there is no necessity for any import into this country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have time and again representations from these areca nut growers. Their contentions are taken into consideration and imports are regulated according to the circumstances.

Shri Joachim Alva: What active steps have Government taken in the matter of improving the quality of betel-nuts and helping the producers down from Kerala. South Kanara and North Kanara?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We do not make any distinction between any regions and we pay equal attention to all the areas.

Shri Joachim Alva: That is the claim.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I have already referred to. there is a Commodity committee which looks after the better cultivation of areca nuts and so on.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the retail price of betel-nuts in the market is very high: something like Rs. 4/- a seer?

Some Hon. Members: More than that.

Dr. M. M. Das: What does the Government propose to do?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is always a conflict between the grower and the importer. I must admit that the prices are rather high at the present moment. But, if we try to import more for bringing down the prices. the growers complain. We try to judge the interests evenly and try to follow a middle course.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what has been the effect of the import duty of 9½ annas on the internal price of processed areca nuts in the south and the unprocessed areca nuts in the east?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For a more detailed answer to this question. I must refer to the hon. Minister for Commerce. But, I can say that the prices of indigenous varieties have gone up recently. It used to be less than half the price of imported stuff some time back; it is now much higher.

Shri Muniswamy: In view of the fact that betel nuts are imported into this country, to which States or to which part of our country are a large number of import licences given?

Dr. P S. Deshmukh: This question will also have to be referred to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Achuthan: Is the Government aware......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, Sir. Next question. I have already allowed four supplementaries.

LEPROSY

***1277. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the extent to which the State Governments have responded to the appeal of the Central Council of Health to provide adequate accommodation to the vagrant and destitute sufferers from leprosy?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The information required is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Is the Government in a position to tell us if the seriousness of the situation arising out of these destitute and vagrant lepers has been realised by the States concerned?

Shrimati Chandrsekhar: Yes, Sir.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh State Government launched a vigorous campaign to root out leprosy, and what help the Central Government has given to the State Government?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The Madhya Pradesh Government we know, has got several institutions under the Government as well as under private agencies to cater to the needs of these leper, vagrant people. But, they have not applied for any help to the Central Government and so I am not in a position to say what help we have rendered.

Shrimati A. Kale: Is the Government aware that lepers are employed in hotels and other public places? If so, would the Government issue instructions to the State Governments to segregate them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question relates to vagrant destitute sufferers, not to those people employed.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Central Government is prepared to bear any burden in providing accommodation for these vagrant and destitute sufferers and if so, what is that amount?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: This is a problem that has to be dealt with by the State Governments. Each State is taking steps to accommodate these people.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is the Government aware of the fact that many lepers even now loiter in the streets, near Connaught Place, Chandni Chowk, etc.?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, it is quite true.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that a large number of lepers is to be found at those centres of pilgrimage which have an all-India importance, and will not the Government of India look after those centres of all-India importance where so many lepers congregate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: During festive occasions or pilgrim centres? What is the question? Pilgrim centres?

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Yes.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The State Governments are taking steps to segregate them.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether the Central Government will arrange to send all these lepers to their respective provinces so that they may be looked after there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: From the Connaught Place?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): It is an impossible task for the Government to undertake. We have tried to see whether an inter-state arrangement could be brought about whereby lepers from one State may not travel to another State. But, even that has been an impossible or at any rate a very difficult thing to accomplish.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member rises late.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: 1278.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What shall I do? Continue the old question or start the new question?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: I thought you permitted me. I am sorry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did not.

FLYING CLUBS

***1278. Shri M. L. Dwivedi**: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to supplementary statement No. IV showing action taken on assurances, promises and undertakings given during the First Session of the House in reply to starred question No. 239 regarding Flying Clubs asked on the 28th May, 1952 and supplementary questions asked thereon by Shri S. C. Samanta, and state:

(a) the position of training commercial pilots and the institutions where they were being trained, since the nationalisation of Air services;

(b) how the training institutions are now being run;

(c) whether any assistance is being given by the States;

(d) if so, the names of such States and the nature of assistance; and

(e) what is the (i) annual expenditure, (ii) initial expenditure incurred at the time of taking over and (iii) how many trainees are trained every year in case Government have taken over these institutions?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There has been no change in the position as a result of nationalisation of air transport services.

(b) Eleven, comprising nine Flying Clubs, which are private limited companies, the Mysore Government Flying Training School, and the Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad, an institution owned and managed by the Central Government.

(c) and (d). Some States give financial assistance to the flying clubs in the States on an *ad hoc* basis. A statement showing the assistance given by the States since 1946-47 is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 26.]

(e) None of the Flying Clubs has been taken over by the Government.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मार्शल कमेटी ने जो सिफारिशें सरकार के पास भेजी हैं वे क्या हैं और उन पर अमल करने के लिये क्या किया जा रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : कमेटी का नाम मास्टर कमेटी है क्योंकि वह श्री एम० ए० मास्टर के नाम पर है । उस ने जो सिफारिशें भेजी हैं वह आ गई हैं । उन में से कुछ यह हैं कि सिविल एअर बोर्ड की स्थापना की जाये, और लाइसेन्स जो दिये जाते हैं उस में बजाये ए और बी लाइसेन्स के लाइसेन्स देने का आधार वही होना चाहिये जिस को इन्टर्नेशनल सिविल ऐविएशन ओरगेनाईजेशन ने माना है । फ्लाइंग क्लब्स के बारे में उन्होंने कहा है कि सबसिडी जो दी जाय वह इस आधार पर दी जानी चाहिये कि कि पाइलट्स 'ए' लाईसिन्स

की ट्रेनिंग पर दी जावे और कमर्शियल पाइलट्स या बी लाईसेन्स की ट्रेनिंग पर सबसिडी न दी जावे ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister is going on reading the whole report.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसा बयान में लिखा हुआ है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार सहायता देती है वह सन् १९५१-५२ में ८,४५,८८२ रु० है, तो राज्य जो ख़र्च करते हैं उस में और केन्द्रीय सहायता में क्या अनुपात है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : आम तौर से जो नियम इस का स्वीकार किया गया है वह यह है कि जितनी सबसिडी केन्द्र द्वारा मिलती है लगभग उतनी ही सब्सिडी राज्य सरकारों से मिलती है ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि मैसूर सरकार को जो सहायता दी जाती है वह कितनी है और उस में कितनी वृद्धि करने की आवश्यकता है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैसूर सरकार को नहीं, इस विषय में मैसूर फ्लाइंग क्लब को अवश्य सहायता मिलती है जैसा कि स्टेटमेन्ट में लिखा हुआ है ;

The institution is run by the Mysore Government. The Central Government pays subsidy to the institution according to the contribution made by the Mysore Government.

श्री हेडा : प्रश्न के पार्ट सी के जवाब में आप ने फ़रमाया कि सन् १९४६-४७ में स्टेट्स को जो मदद दी गई है सिर्फ़ उसके आंकड़े दिये हैं । क्या उस के बाद स्टेट्स को कोई मदद नहीं दी गई ? और अगर दी गई है तो उस का उल्लेख यहां क्यों नहीं है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी नहीं, सब आंकड़े दिये गये हैं । सन् १९४६-४७ के दिये गये हैं, सन् १९४७-४८, १९४८-४९, १९५०-५१ और १९५१-५२ सब के आंकड़े दिये गये हैं ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if there are any stipends given by the Central Government—either in the Flying Clubs or in the institution at Allahabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not fully aware of that. We do select the trainees carefully and the training is done on a subsidised basis because the cost of the training is much more than what is realised by way of fees.

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : इन शिक्षा केन्द्रों में प्रत्येक शिक्षणार्थी पर जो खर्चा पड़ता है उस का सापेक्षिक अनुपात क्या है, यह आप बता सकते हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं इस अनुपात को तो नहीं बता सकता, किन्तु यह अवश्य है कि भिन्न भिन्न फ्लाइंग क्लब्स में खर्चे का भिन्न भिन्न परिणाम आता है, और वह विशेष प्रश्न पूछे जाने पर ही बताया जा सकता है ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आसाम में क्या कोई फ्लाइंग क्लब खोलने की तजवीज़ है, और अगर है तो उस के खोलने में विलम्ब क्यों हो रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से आसाम गवर्नमेन्ट से जो कि आसाम फ्लाइंग क्लब खोलना चाहती है, यह कहा जा चुका है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार जो सब्सिडी और क्लब्स को देती है वह उन को भी देगी और यह प्रस्ताव सन् १९४८-४९ में ही कर दिया गया था, किन्तु आसाम गवर्नमेन्ट से अभी कार्यवाही इस दिशा में नहीं हुई है ।

Shri Joachim Alva: Has Government got any scheme in the matter of the formation and running of these flying clubs in view of the scandalous fights which the Bombay Flying Club wage amongst themselves to the detriment of flying interests?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I regret to say that there have been some differences of opinion and disputes amongst the members of the Bombay Flying Club as a result of which the Bombay Government advised us not to continue giving subsidy, and that had to be stopped since with effect from 1st September, '53. We advised the Bombay Flying Club to so frame their articles of association that they provide sufficient control by the Central and the Bombay Governments over the affairs of the club,

DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS BY PESTS

*1279. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate of the quantity of agricultural crops which are being destroyed by insects, plant diseases, rodents and virmins etc., has been made recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that 20 per cent. of the agricultural crops are being destroyed by these enemies of crops;

(c) the steps taken during the last six years by Government to stop this destruction;

(d) whether any estimate has been made of the total quantity of insecticides that will be required to stop this destruction;

(e) what is the quantity of insecticides which are produced in India and is imported from other countries; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the total requirements from within the country?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) In the absence of reliable methods of assessment of damage it has not been possible to make an estimate

(b) It is extremely difficult to establish the proportion of crops destroyed by pests and diseases. The proportion will depend on the number of pests and their virulence.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 27.]

(d) Yes. About 12,000 tons.

(e) Information is being collected.

(f) Government of India have set up a factory for the production of DDT. The formulation of various foreign insecticides within the country is being encouraged by permitting the importation of only the technical grade of insecticides. A number of Indian firms have taken up the formulation of a number of insecticides.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that some Central Government expert has made a statement or has read a paper in Bombay stating that 90 lakh tons of foodgrains are destroyed every year in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The statement would not be much of an exaggeration. On a rough calculation, it is estimated that we lost about 10 per cent. of our crops as a result of these pests and diseases. The only comforting feature is that in the U.S.A. the percentage is said to be 20 per cent.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the results of the various measures taken by the Governments, both Centre and the States, have been assessed, and if so, what is the proportion of the prevention to the diseases spreading?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On the whole, I believe at least during the last year when the rice bug appeared, we dealt with it very effectively, and also the locust invasion. On the whole we have not been very successful.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any charge is made for lending the equipment for control measures to the various States, or are they lent free?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: At the most, we charge only the transport charges. We do not charge any rent. I am, of course, talking from memory. But the equipment with the Centre is not sufficient. We want to enlarge it.

Shri T. N. Singh: With special reference to losses in storages in Government godowns, may I know what steps have been taken by the Government to reduce these losses due to rodents etc., and how far they have succeeded? I want to know the measure of the money spent and the measure of the success gained.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The question really refers to damage of crops by pests and diseases.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not to storage.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know the area which suffered the greatest destruction of crops by these enemies of crops? What is the total quantity of crops destroyed in that area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I have already stated, it is very difficult to make an estimate. I at least have no information whether any particular area is subject to any particular pest. Of course, about locusts we know that Rajasthan gets infested earlier than any other part.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, whether any scheme or apparatus has been submitted by any person from Travancore-Cochin for the destruction of these insects and pests?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Locusts, is it?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Insects and pests.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Generally.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: At least if the hon. Member means this year, we have not received any.

Shri Muniswamy: In view of the fact that it has come to the notice of the Government that large quantities of agricultural crops are destroyed by the pests, may I know whether any examination was made to find out at what stage such destruction takes place generally?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know what period or what area he means.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the height of the crop when these pests come in, whether there has been rain already, at what stage?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For various crops, the pests come in at various stages.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Each pest has got its own time.

Shri S. N. Das: Have arrangements been made to do research with a view to prevent these plant diseases?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Researches are always going on. We have got more than one institute.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is a general question. He gives a general answer and nobody is enlightened. Next question.

SUPPLY OF WAGONS

***1280. Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country wagons are available but there is no adequate booking compared with the supply.

(b) the position of availability of wagons in the various Railway Zones; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government recently to improve the supply of wagons and to avoid transport bottle-neck?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Since about the middle of August, wagons have been available in excess of the overall demand for traffic on the Broad Gauge of the Northern and Eastern Railways and the Metre Gauge of the Southern Railway.

(b) On all the Railways except the North Eastern Railway, the movement of traffic for the free routes *i.e.*, routes, the line capacity of which is not a limiting factor, is more or less current generally. As regards routes with limited capacity, the movements are subject to limited quotas though in some of these cases also the demands for general goods are being fully met.

On the North Eastern Railway the rail transport available is not adequate to meet all the demands currently, due to inadequacy of wagons.

(c) More new wagons and locomotives are on order and are proposed to be ordered. Line capacity of some of the difficult routes is also in the process of augumentation.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have laid down in the Five Year Plan a target of 30,000 wagons to be produced within the country. May I know what production has been achieved so far during the period of the Plan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have they not circulated the progress on the Plan?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The production so far made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not contained there?

Shri Alagesan: Our orders on the indigenous industry regarding wagons have been to the tune of 8,000 per year. They are able to meet this demand.

Shri P. C. Bose: Some time ago the Railway authorities proposed to introduce a scheme called "Rationalisation of Wagon Supply Scheme". What has happened to that scheme for equitable distribution of wagon supply?

Shri Alagesan: We are not aware of any such scheme.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No rationalisation is undertaken?

Shri Barman: In view of the admission by Government that there is shortage of wagons in the North Eastern Railway and that there is some surplus in some other Railways, is it proposed by Government to divert some of the wagons to the North Eastern Railway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are small things which they will naturally do.

Shri Alagesan: I said with reference to part (a) of the question that the wagon supply is equal to or more than the demand on the Broad Gauge of the Northern and Eastern Railways and the Metre Gauge of the Southern Railway. The North Eastern Railway is entirely Metre Gauge.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the position regarding the availability of wagons is very unsatisfactory in the Western Railway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In all Railways other than those mentioned, it is unsatisfactory.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know the system for the allocation of wagons to different regional Railways. Are these allocations made on actual requirements, or on a par for all the Railways?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it depend upon the length of the Railway or the demand? That is what evidently the hon. Member wants.

Shri Alagesan: It depends, of course, on the requirements of each Railway, and it is done by the Railway Board.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On what basis?

Shri Alagesan: On the basis of requirements.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether it is a fact that at the time of allotting wagons, the authorities do not allot wagons according to the indents?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They delay—is it? What is the question? The hon. Member must make himself understood.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: The question is this: whether it is a fact that at the time of allotting wagons, the authorities do not allot wagons according to the indents?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Where? In the stations?

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Indents for the wagons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not possible to understand. There are various authorities allotting wagons.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Indents placed by the traders.

Shri Alagesan: As far as indents are concerned, these indents are not to be taken as genuine in all cases. There have been instances recently when we made bulk supplies of wagons, many of these indents fell through and were withdrawn. They were exposed to be very bogus indents. I can give the figures also. In Delhi Division 218 wagons were withdrawn for destinations *via* Bezwada when we placed wagons at their disposal, and *via* Secunderabad 71 wagons were withdrawn; *via* Raichur 132 and *via* Botgi 37. On the Southern Railway also similar things have happened, and the merchants have had to surrender Rs. 30,000 over a period of a few months.

Shri K. C. Sodia: May I know, Sir, whether any such scheme as "Own your wagon" has been put before the public?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. Certain trade interests have been asked to give their opinions and reactions to this scheme.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The hon. Minister stated that the availability of wagons in the Eastern Zone is adequate. But we find that the availability of wagons, at least to collieries, has been half the number of the daily averages indented by the collieries. Why is it so?

Shri Alagesan: Even with regard to movement of coal, Sir, we have got sufficient wagons. In fact, at one time there were more wagons than could be utilised.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know, Sir, whether there is any provision in the Railways Act to punish those who indent wagons and do not load them with materials?

Shri Alagesan: As I said in my reply to another supplementary question, the deposit money placed with the Railways is forfeited.

ERNAKULAM-QUILON RAILWAY LINE

***1281. Shri A. M. Thomas: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:**

(a) how far the earth work on the Ernakulam-Quilon rail link has progressed;

(b) when is the line likely to be thrown open for traffic between Ernakulam and Kottayam;

(c) whether the work in connection with the construction of bridges has started;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the possibility of electrification of the line is being investigated; and

(f) If so, with what results?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 124 lakhs Cft. of earth work have been carried out on Ernakulam-Kottayam section *i.e.* roughly 25 per cent. of the work under this Head.

(b) It is programmed to be opened in 1955.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The matter is under examination. No decision has been arrived at so far.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the allotment for 1952-53 would be spent during the year?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir whether sufficient land has been acquired for the line and the materials brought to the place for construction?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: At present, the section from Ernakulam to Kottayam, which is 37 miles, has been sanctioned and out of those 37 miles, land has been acquired for 30 miles and the rest is being acquired very shortly.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN HYDERABAD

***1282. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi**: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employment Exchanges in the Hyderabad State have been completely integrated with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, whether it is functioning under the rules and regulations of the Central Government?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The reply is 'no' to (a) and (b) of the Question, but the method of working is, to all intents and purposes, identical with that adopted elsewhere.

I may add for the benefit of the hon. member that the Exchanges in Part B States are run by the State Governments concerned as the agents of the Central Government. The financial, administrative and policy control and responsibility vest with the Central Government.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Inspectorate of Exchanges has inspected the office of the Employment Exchange in Hyderabad?

Shri V. V. Giri: They must have certainly inspected.

RAILWAY LINK FROM GARO HILLS

***1283. Sardar A. S. Saigal**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made for the construction of a railway line linking the Garo Hills coal fields with the main railway system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Planning Advisory Board has recommended early steps for opening this railway line; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No such recommendation has been received so far.

(c) It is too early to say.

Shri Amjad Ali: Arising out of (a), may I know, Sir, at which point from the Garo Hills the railway line is going to touch the main system of the Assam Railways?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, various engineering surveys were carried out and three different proposals were examined:

(1) Darangiri-Amjanga-Pandu

(2) Darangiri-Ungnani-Goalpara-Perry-Jegighopa-Hongaigaon

(3) Darangiri to a reasonably stable point on the bank of the river Brahmaputra by direct route.

Shri Amjad Ali: Has any one of these been approved?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The engineering surveys had been carried out, Sir, and the Ministry of Railways were quite willing to examine the whole project. But, Sir, before launching upon any such project, we wanted to know from the Ministry of Production whether they would be willing to take up any prospecting work as to whether there was good quality coal and in sufficient quantity. That Ministry is not prepared to do so and so we have not progressed any further.

Shri Amjad Ali: The lease for working out the coal mines has already been given. May I know whether the Railway Ministry has prepared any final estimate for the railway line from the mine areas of Garo Hills?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We will do so as soon as we are approached by the Government of Assam.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : आप मिनिस्ट्री आफ़ प्रोड़क्शन से इस सम्बन्ध में जो जांच कराने वाले हैं, उस जांच में आप को कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : उस की जांच करने के लिये रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री को कोई समय नहीं चाहिये । वर्कस्, माइन्स एन्ड पावर जो आपकी प्रोडक्शन मिनिस्ट्री है उससे इस बारे में पूछिये ।

INDIAN SHIPPING

*1285. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that foreign ships leave Indian ports fully loaded while Indian ships leave partly loaded?

(b) If so, have Government enquired into the causes and taken steps in the matter?

(c) Have Government estimated the life and longevity of the Indian ships in service including coastal ones?

(d) If so, how many ships require re-juvenation and modernisation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Statistics show that the Indian Shipping Companies have been carrying on an average per sailing larger tonnages than the Foreign Lines. Information regarding shipments from other Ports is being collected.

(c) and (d). 46 ships of 97,324 gross tons employed in the coastal and overseas trades are over 20 years of age and may require replacement in the near future.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether these shipping companies possess ships of modern and efficient units? If not, whether they are facing competition from foreign ships?

Shri Alagesan: The tonnage that is required for replacement by new ships on the coastal trade is about 37 per cent. and on the overseas trade about 3 per cent. As the House is aware, Sir, Government are assisting the shipping companies with loans for replacing their old ships and purchasing comparatively new ones.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that these shipping companies are unable to move on with their expansion schemes due to paucity of funds? May I know whether the Five Year Plan will give them sufficient help or not?

Shri Alagesan: A sum of Rs. 6 crores to be advanced as loans has been set apart for this purpose. Of course, the shipping companies also are required to find another sum of Rs. 3 crores. It is estimated that the total cost of replacement of all these 46 ships will be within that sum.

TAMLUK OUT-AGENCY

*1286. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state how the Tamluk Out-agency on the Eastern Railway is working at present?

(b) How many are the transport buses at the disposal of the Out-agency to connect the Panchkura Railway Station?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no shed nearabout the Panchkura Railway Station either for the buses or for the passengers to take shelter from rain and sun?

(d) Have Government received any representation in this matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport

(**Shri Shahnawaz Khan**): (a) Tamluk Out-Agency is functioning satisfactorily.

(b) Five.

(c) There is no shed adjoining Punchkura Railway Station for buses. Covered waiting hall accommodation for passengers exists in the station building, which is close by.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether over and above these 5 buses of the Out-Agency, there are other buses running?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Possibly there are; I have no definite information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that one Association has been amalgamated with this Out-Agency so that the number has increased to 15 ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They have made a joint request to this effect, Sir, and it was agreed to by the Railway Board.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, so far the policy followed by the Railway is that preference should be given to outsiders in giving licences for out-agencies. May I know whether Government have taken steps for the sanction of licences to outsiders?

Shri Alagesan: What does he mean by outsiders, Sir?

Shri S. C. Samanta: I mean outsiders running in the line. In the line there are other buses run by outsiders.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): As you are aware, Sir, these permits are issued by the State Governments. They have set up statutory authorities for these things and to the extent the railways are consulted they will help. I do not know that the railways are associated with the issue of these permits. Naturally, when one contractor wishes to have an out-agency he comes forward with a permit.

PANIPAT-GOHANA RAILWAY LINE

*1287. **Sardar Hukam Singh**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of work to restore the Panipat-Gohana Railway Track on the Northern Railway has commenced; and

(b) if not, when this is likely to be taken up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The question is under consideration in consultation with the Punjab Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If I recollect aright, this was included in the construction programme of 1953-54. Will the Government be able to stick to that programme?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Was it included at all. If at all it was included the question of sticking to the programme arises.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The original policy of the railway administration was to replace all the lines that were dismantled in 1942, but, later on, Sir, we received a request from the Government of the Punjab to divert the main railway line from Ambala to Kalka *via* Chandigarh and this new work has been given the priority.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know where this line stands now in the order of priority of replacing the old tracts?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): As the Parliamentary Secretary said, the priority was given to this Chandigarh project at the instance of the State Government. I cannot tell the hon. Member the exact priority, but the restoration of this Panipat-Gohana line has not been dropped and, in fact, we are in communication with the State Government in regard to this.

SURVEY OF RAILWAY LINK FOR CHANDIGARH

***1288. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of rail link for Chandigarh has been undertaken; and

(b) whether it would be brought on the main Ambala-Kalka line or it would be connected by a loopline with the old track?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The survey has been completed and the Railway Administration has been authorised to take in hand the construction of the proposed diversion for bringing the new Capital on to the Ambala-Kalka main line. The work is now in progress.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it intended to throw out of service the loop line or will that be continued?

Shri Alagesan: I do not quite follow the question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If Chandigarh is brought on the main Ambala-Kalka route, there would be a part of the present track that would be thrown out of service. I want to know whether that part would be used and remain as a loop line or whether it will be demolished and dismantled

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say at present, Sir. I think that line will also remain: I do not think it will be domolished

Sardar Hukam Singh: How long will the Government take to place Chandigarh on the main line?

Shri Alagesan: We hope to complete it before the end of this year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Calendar year?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it the construction or the running of trains also?

Shri Alagesan: The construction work; and soon after the running of trains will follow.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any estimate of the costs been prepared?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir; the Northern Railway has been asked to go ahead with the work while the detailed estimates are under scrutiny.

SUSPENSION OF RAILWAY STAFF ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

***1289. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number of Class I and II officers of the Southern Railway who are under suspension at present?

(b) What are the charges levelled against them?

(c) How many officers belong to the *ex*-Mysore State Railway out of those who are under suspension?

(d) Has the Committee to enquire into the corrupt practices obtaining in the Railways been constituted?

(e) If so, who are the members of the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)
Class I officers: Nil
Class II Officers: Two

(b) Serious misconduct in having misused privilege passes and grainshop facilities etc.

(c) Both the officers belong to the ex-Mysore State Railway.

(d) Yes.

(e) A statement showing the names of the members of the Committee is placed at the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 28].

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, if any prosecution is likely to be launched in these cases?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, investigation is going on: in one case the matter is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know why members of a particular political party have been excluded from the Committee that has been appointed to enquire into the corrupt practices prevailing in the railways?

Shri Alagesan: It is not constituted on strictly party lines. The complexion of the whole House was taken into consideration and the Committee was constituted with a view to achieve the maximum results.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, since when these officers are under suspension and when are the cases likely to be decided?

Shri Alagesan: In the case of one, it will be decided soon. In the other case the matter is still under investigation.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know the names of these officers and their ranks?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is enough to know that there are two officers.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Is it a fact that between the suspension of these officers and the disposal of their cases......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like to say one thing. Now, it is true that they are placed under suspension. I am not saying anything with respect to these officers; I know nothing about them. The Minister says that investigation is going on. It may result in acquittal; it may result in conviction, if they are found guilty. Therefore, except in so far as general information is asked, we need not go into the names of the officers. Possibly it may be found by the investigating authority that one of them or both of them may be found guilty or none of them may be found guilty, in which case there is no difficulty of their being discharged and retained in service. Then there will be so much of bad odour about them.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am not asking on this particular case, Sir. Is it a fact that between the suspension of railway officers for alleged corrupt practices and other offences and the disposal of cases against them, 3 years, 4 years and even 6 years are usually taken?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know wherefrom my hon. friend derives this information. At least in this case it is not so and the delay caused in such cases is not entirely due to the administration.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the statement furnished by the hon. Minister it is seen that out of the 12 names none belongs to the Communist group. The hon. Minister said that the Committee was constituted according to the complexion of the House. May I know what was the complexion by which these members were appointed to the Committee?

Shri Alagesan: I thought that it was more or less fairly reflected in the composition of the Committee itself:

Shri V. P. Nayar: We see that the biggest group in the opposition has been left out. May I know the reason why it is so?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister thinks that it is quite fairly representative.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May we know from the hon. Minister why no Communist member was taken?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same question was put by Mr. Vittal Rao and that is being expanded by Mr. Nayar.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But no definite reply was given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What can be done?

Pandit K. C. Sharma: May I know what is the policy of the Government, whether the persons against whom the charges are brought are to be punished departmentally or to be sent up for prosecution in a court of law if the offences against them are serious?

Shri Alagesan: That will depend on each particular case. So far as these two officers are concerned, departmental action is being taken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It all depends largely upon the seriousness of the case and the results of the investigation.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: My point is that if the cases are serious, they should be prosecuted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It all depends on the report of the investigating authority. It may say that there is a fit case for prosecution or that no prosecution will stand. It largely depends upon the report.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether some of the officers were suspended for their sympathy with some of the political organisation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is about corrupt practices for which they are charged. The Minister has already answered the question. Now, you are introducing complications by this.

IMPORT OF BOGIE UNDERFRAMES FROM BELGIUM

***1290. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to answer given to unstarred question No. 1076 asked on the 16th April, 1953 and state how many bogie underframes indented from Belgium during the year 1952. have since been received?

(b) How many have been sent to the Hindustan Aircraft Limited?

(c) Is it a fact that the construction of coaches has been curtailed at Hindustan Aircraft from 13 coaches a month to 10 due to short supply of underframes?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) None so far, there having been some delays due to strikes in the works of the manufacturers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The outturn has had to be limited, for the present, to 10 per month due to short supply of underframes both from indigenous and foreign suppliers.

Shri Vittal Rao: Are the Government aware that very recently in reply to a question they stated that the supply of underframes has been augmented?

Shri Alagesan: I do not remember to have said any such thing, Sir.

CALCUTTA PORT WORKERS

***1291. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the question of non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act by the Calcutta Port Authorities to their scheduled workers, there was recently a mass-strike in the Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated into the matter and what are their findings?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) There was a partial cessation of work in some sections of the Port on the 28th August 1953.

(b) No. The Port Commissioners are fully aware of the need for full implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and are taking steps to pay overtime at the rates laid thereunder with retrospective effect from the dates on which the staff became eligible for the benefits admissible under the Act.

I may add for the information of the hon. Members that the Port Trusts at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta have been instructed to take steps for the full implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The benefit will be extended to all categories of workers, minimum wages in respect of whom were fixed in 1951 or subsequently and to those also in respect of whom minimum wages have not so far been fixed. The Ministry of Transport have been requested to instruct Port Commissioners that no category of workers in respect of whom minimum rates of wages under the Act should be fixed are left out. The Clause restricting wage limits is being done away with. We have since decided to do away with the limits of Rs. 75/- per month or Rs. 3/- or more per day.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I would like to know in a categorical answer from the Government whether there was actually a violation of this Minimum Wages Act by the authorities?

Shri V. V. Giri: There was no question of violation: there were some omissions made. Some misunderstandings had arisen and we have cleared the whole situation now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, if strikes have taken place both in Bombay and Calcutta for the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. Is it due to the unawareness of the Central Government?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is not due to the unawareness; it is due to misapprehensions.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: The hon. Minister has just said that instructions were issued to the Port Trust authorities at Madras and Calcutta. May I know from him whether similar instructions are proposed to be issued to other port authorities also like Visakhapatnam?

Shri V. V. Giri: I suppose so. I am not certain. I shall look into the matter.

LICENSING OF FOOD VENDORS

***1292. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licensing of food vendors at the Railway platforms has been centralised at the respective headquarters of the various Railways and whether the authorities of the stations concerned have any hand in the matter;

(b) the system of check on the supply of unwholesome and adulterated food to passengers on the platforms; and

(c) what provisions have been made for supply of wholesome food at reasonable rates to passengers?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Subject to the general policy laid down by the Railway Board, the licensing of food vendors is centralised on some Railways at the Headquarters Commercial Office, on some at District, Divisional or Regional Offices. On no Railway, however, is this work entrusted to the station authorities.

(b) and (c). A check on the quality of food served to passengers is exercised by frequent inspections through station masters, inspectors and railway officers. Railway medical authorities also inspect periodically all stalls and vendors and articles sold by them. Prices are fixed by Railway Administrations in the light of the prevailing market rates in the locality.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if the Government have considered the desirability of licensing the actual vendors of foodstuffs instead of giving licenses to bigger people who sublet and exploit the vendors?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Subletting is strictly prohibited on the Railways but if the hon. Member would bring any specific case to the notice of the Railway administration we will deal with it very severely.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, how many food experts have been appointed for checking, how many checks have been made in the Refreshment car of the Grand Trunk Express for its food supply which is very often unwholesome and prohibitively costly?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Four questions are asked—unwholesome, prohibitively costly, any food experts are appointed and whether it has been checked?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Checks are very frequently made by Railway Inspectors and Railway officers and also by the station staff.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are there any experts on food?

Shri Alagesan: Just now I am unable to give the information. As far as the service on the Grand Trunk Express is cnocerned we have received complaints from hon. Members of this House as well as the other House. I immediately looked into these things and brought them to the notice of the Contractors that they should mend the affairs. I think some improvement is being made.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Has the hon. Minister satisfied himself regarding the conditions prevailing in the dining car attached to the Grand Trunk Express?

Shri Alagesan: I have done it more than once.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether the hon: Minister is satisfied with the conditions that are prevalent in the dining car?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says that he is fully satisfied. Some improvement is being noticed.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that subletting is not only most common but it has become the rule in the Railways?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said before, we would like to have definite cases and not vague statements.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि कंप्लेंट बुक कांट्रेक्टर्स के पास में रखी जाती है और उस पर जो कंप्लेंट की जाती है, क्या उन पर भी कभी ग़ौर किया गया है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : बहुत ज़ोर से ग़ौर किया जाता है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि रेलवे में जो फूड मिला करती है और दूध मिलता है, उस में पानी का अंश कितना होता है ?

श्री जांगड़े : अभी माननीय पार्लियामेंटरी सेक्रेटरी ने कहा कि प्लेटफ़ार्म पर खाने की वस्तुओं की जो क़ीमत होती है वह स्थानीय बाजार के भाव के बराबर होती है । क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि ईस्टर्न रेलवे के प्लैटफ़ार्म पर बिकने वाली चीज़ों की क़ीमत बाजार के भाव से दुगुनी होती हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मैं ने कहा है कि जहां तक मुमकिन हो सकता है चीज़ों की क़ीमत लगभग जो बाज़ार की क़ीमत है, वह होती है । लेकिन यह खास तौर पर कहना कि जितनी बाज़ार में क़ीमत है वही स्टेशन पर होगी, यह मुमकिन नहीं है क्योंकि स्टेशन वालों को खास हिसाब किताब रखना पड़ता है और कई जगह पर शायद क़ीमत थोड़ी ज्यादा होगी ।

Sardar Hukam Singh: It is generally said that subletting is strictly prohibited. Should the House understand that there are no contractors who sublet their contracts to the vendors and charge exhorbitant fees? Are these vendors directly licensed now by the Government?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Some vendors are also licensed directly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Parliamentary Secretary has already said that it is not a practice which is allowed by the Railways. If any particular case is brought to his notice he will deal with it not ordinarily but severely.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : क्या यह बात सही है कि सोनपुर रेलवे स्टेशन पर जो छोटे छोटे वेंडर हैं, वे कांट्रेक्टर के ज़रिए रखे गये हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : मुझे हिन्दुस्तान के हर एक स्टेशन पर क्या क्या हो रहा है, यह मालूम नहीं है ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय इन सारी चीज़ों के बारे में जो कि इस हाउस के सामने आई हैं, उन के लिये एक कमेटी बिठा कर तहक़ीक़ात करने की कोशिश करेंगे ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या कमेटी ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The food is generally not so bad as it is made out, because the sale of the contractors is so large. Therefore to say that the food is bad is not quite correct. Why should the hon. Members or the passengers take that food if it is so bad.

Some Hon. Members: Should they starve?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They need not starve. They can live upon milk, fruit or anything like that. I may however inform the House that the whole question of catering, contractors and vending licenses etc., would be placed before the next meeting of the National Railway Users Council and it is proposed to consider the recommendations made by them and try to act upto them.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या इस का नैशनेलाइज़ेशन करने की कोशिश करेंगे ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : कुछ नहीं कर सकते ।

The question hour is over. Let me not be misunderstood—I am not speaking on behalf of the Minister. Only the question hour is over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why is it that a similar question put long ago—about the *Times of India*—it was put by me 15 days ago—has not till now been answered, nor has a reply been received?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know. I do not think I make any difference in these things, but anyhow, I shall enquire.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): I will answer that question also.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Not even a letter of acknowledgment has been given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sometimes...

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: My question was the first.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Possibly the hon. Member does not know when the lady Member gave the question,—may be earlier.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Especially at this session, when questions have not been allowed, no intimation has been given to the Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall certainly look into the matter. I only wanted to introduce a better system, but in the meanwhile I wanted the present system to continue until a better system came into operation, but in view of the future system that has not come into operation, possibly here and there they stop the present system. Now, I want to say something about the proposed systems just as when cheques are not honoured, on the back of those cheques a number of items are entered, 1, 2, 3, etc., showing the grounds on which they are dishonoured, similarly, we are proposing that such a procedure may be adopted, and a slip showing the grounds on which the question is not allowed may be attached. We are preparing the items under which the objections can be taken. In the meanwhile, the ancient practice was being followed. We receive some complaints, here and there, from hon. Members that they have not received 'yes' or 'no' to their questions one way or the other—whether they are admitted or rejected. I shall be looking into this. I am sorry that this is brought to my notice at the fag end of the session. Anyhow, I shall see to it.

Shri Gidwani: Sir, many inconvenient questions—questions which may be considered inconvenient—are being converted from 'starred' into 'unstarred.'

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I can assure the hon. Member, personally, that so far as the staff of the Parliament is concerned, have no inconvenience, we have no party bias. Sometimes, hon. Members in their anxiety, would like to bring all questions before the House. But they may relate to matters on which there may be honest differences of opinion as to whether they are to be starred or unstarred. If any particular point is brought to my notice—that in the interests of the House it ought to be taken up as a starred question—I will take it up and then suggest what is to be done.

Shri Gidwani *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For instance, in the questions that we went through today, there are questions which range from (a) to (h), and their volume is such that one page is occupied by four questions.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Apart from the instance given by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty about the *Times of India*, there is another instance also where a similar short notice question on floods in Malabar had been given by me and had been rejected. After that, several short notice questions and ordinary questions, as far as floods are concerned, had been allowed in this House. So, there are two instances of this kind. There are other instances also where some questions put by us had not been allowed and questions put by others had been allowed. There are two instances now—one about the *Times of India* and the other about the floods. May we know the reason why this discrimination, if I can say so, is shown as far as questions are concerned?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I can assure the leader of the Communist Party that no discrimination is intended. Sometimes it happens so, and I shall certainly look into the question. but there is no such intention at all. In the order of priority, if one question is admitted, the other questions—according to the tabling of the question—come next. Now that you have brought forward this point, I shall look into both these instances. Sometimes it happens that a particular matter is only a State matter. When the question comes in, the impression is—I myself have had to dispose of such questions—that this is a State matter and so it will be better to be looked into by the State concerned. But a number of questions come in at the same time; when I realise that notwithstanding the fact that they relate to a State matter, if hon. Members are interested, their attention could be drawn to it. That is how one of these questions might have been admitted at a later stage though the earlier ones had been rejected. That is how it happens, and I shall certainly see to it that there is no discrimination. It is never the intention.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I point out that it is not only as far as question are concerned, but in other matters also, there is discrimination. Now, two committees were formed here. One was the Anti-corruption Committee and the other was the Central Advisory Board for the Railways. Whereas on the floor of the House it was said that all parties are taken in the committees, on these two committees—especially the Railway Advisory Board—there was nobody from this side. We do not mind if a declaration was not made on the floor of the House that all parties will be represented, but so far as the questions and this matter are concerned, there is reason for us to believe that even in questions and other things there is a discrimination. I only want to point out that not only as far as questions are concerned but in the case of the committees also, there is discrimination. Another question was put on the floor of this House—it was also about a Committee where it was said that it represented all sections of the House, whereas it did not. So, Sir, as far as these questions and the appointment of these committees are concerned, there is a discrimination—we believe there is. We want to know whether there is any discrimination and, if so, what is the reason for this discrimination.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I can only speak on behalf of Parliament and the Parliament Secretariat with which I am concerned. So far as admissibility of questions is concerned, I have already explained how particular questions which, at the outset, may not appear to be demanding so much serious notice, but which later on, after report and other things, appear to be serious, are, for the latter reason, allowed. So far as committees are concerned I am not aware of any committee appointed by Parliament in which such a thing as referred to by Mr. Gopalan has occurred. If this had been said about the Government, certainly the Government would take note of this. I am not responsible for any committee.

Shri S. S. More: I am not one of those Members who ask frequent questions. But as a matter of fact, when

I submitted two questions, short notice questions, about affairs in Kashmir and the intervention of foreigners there, I was informed that the questions were disallowed. May I know, Sir, the procedure by which we can agitate this matter. Very recently, burning topics, scandals, have been going on. Whispering campaigns are going on abroad. How can we raise these questions on the floor of the House so as to get precise and correct information from Government? When these questions are asked in the interest of Government, they are unfortunately disallowed. How can we raise these important questions urgently on the floor of the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Parliament has been sitting since the third August. Now, we are on the 15th September—about one and a half months thereafter. That short notice question was tabled 25 days ago. A short notice question may or may not be accepted. It is open to the Minister to say: "I want more time." The hon. Member had sufficient time to table a 'long notice' question in which case I could certainly have admitted that question. But hon. Members need not depend upon the Ministers' convenience for other questions. They will be answered in due course. But in the case mentioned by Mr. More, I do not think it was pursued.

Now, so far as the practice is concerned, if a question is not allowed, there are a number of ways in which it could be brought to light. Resolutions and other things can be moved relating to that question. I am not able to say what exactly ought to be done. Naturally, if any question is found to be very necessary to be answered, the hon. Member concerned always writes to me or tells me. If it appertains to a matter on which the Minister is not able to gather information, then, on account of that, that question may not be allowed. It is not as if the hon. Member is without a remedy. But at the time of receipt of a particular question, the Minister might have thought that, in the public interest, it was not necessary to answer that particular question. We cannot force a Minister to accept short notice questions. Hon. Members may know that though I might find no objection in a question put by an hon. Member, the hon. Minister may not like to have it answered for want of time and for various other reasons also. Under the circumstances, there need not be any fear. No apprehension need be entertained. If sufficient opportunities are not given to any hon. Member, he might always come to me; if that hon. Member does not want to come to me, he may write to me. I shall certainly look into this matter.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I invite your attention to a particular matter? The hon. Prime Minister had given his consent to answer a short notice question. I came to you and conveyed the same information to you, and you were pleased to say that you will allow the question. But till now, it has not come up on the floor of the House. May I know why?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know whether he has got a written letter from the hon. Minister. I am unable to say. But it is a very difficult affair sometimes. Hon. Members may feel that when they have a talk with the Minister, the Minister will be able to answer the question. They come away with that impression, and the Minister has another impression. In between, I got into trouble. I will proceed to the next subject—Short Notice Question.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

STOPPAGE OF PUBLICATION OF THREE CALCUTTA DAILIES

I. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tribunal has been appointed to deal with the matter arising out of the sudden stoppage of publication of three Calcutta dailies namely 'Times of India', 'Nav Bharat Times' and 'Satyaug' with effect from

1st September 1953, thus rendering about a thousand employees out of jobs for no fault of their own;

(b) whether Government are taking any steps to see that the employees of these papers are restored to their jobs or given fair consideration for alternative employment pending a decision by the tribunal; and if so, what they are?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. The Government of West Bengal have referred to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication the issue of payment of compensation and/or relief and/or other dues to employees whose services were terminated as a result of stoppage of publication of the three daily newspapers.

(b) Government sympathise with the employees who have been rendered unemployed almost suddenly and hope that the Management would give immediate and sympathetic consideration to the question of providing alternative employment to these employees. This matter, I am sure, must also be receiving the attention of the State Government.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if Government are aware that the management of these papers in a circular letter to the advertisers wrote that they had been compelled to suspend publication of these papers on account of power shortage and other difficulties?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take the information from the hon. member.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that appointments on a large scale were made in these concerns in Calcutta and huge orders were placed for printing machinery, etc., with a view to expansion of their activities in the month of August last? If so, what were the reasons for the suspension of publication of these papers in spite of the fact that they had intended expansion?

Shri V. V. Giri: The case for the employers is that financially they are running at a loss. That is the information generally collected from representations received.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is Government aware that all this mess is due to,—and this kind of trouble may arise in future too—the unbridled ambition of one, two or three individuals who by any and every means want to control all organs of the Indian press with a view to muzzle public opinion in advance of the coming General Elections?

Shri V. V. Giri: The information is very interesting; but I cannot reply to that.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Is Government aware of the resolution passed by the Federation of Working Journalists in Trivandurum requesting for an amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act to bring newspapermen within the category of workers, so that they can go before an appropriate tribunal for immediate relief?

Shri V. V. Giri: That matter is being actively and sympathetically considered.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact, Sir, that the money that was invested in the papers is now going to be transferred to cement production, because it brings in more profit? Have the Government any machinery whereby they can look into the entire matter before retrenchment is resorted to?

Shri V. V. Giri: We have no information on that aspect of the matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would not like newspapermen to lean out.

Shri S. S. More: They want to have a look at you.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is of vital interest to them.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that one of the three papers concerned started its Calcutta edition only four months back and the staff employed increased by several hundreds as a consequence? Has Government therefore told the employers that this kind of treatment of people whom they have employed is extremely reprehensible?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am certain that the Journalists' Association has been representing matters to the State Government and to the Chief Minister of Bengal.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware, Sir, that the Labour Ministry of the Government of West Bengal appears to think, at least as far as certain sections of the employees of these three papers are concerned, that it comes under the ambit of the Government of India rather than of the Provincial Government? ......

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It seems obvious, *prima facie*, that the whole occurrence is most deplorable. It is a kind of thing, in which, normally speaking, it would be desirable to have a full enquiry—though it is a very small matter whether the Government of India deals with it, or the Government of West Bengal, because there is no difference of opinion between them in regard to it.

Our difficulty is that, since this matter, or a part of it, has been referred to the Industrial Tribunal, it has become a little difficult to start a rival kind of enquiry into the matter. Government would prefer a full enquiry to find out what the real facts are and why this sudden occurrence should take place.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Would Government take steps to make sure that the journalists, at least for the purpose of this tribunal, come under the ambit of the definition of "workmen" who are entitled to appear before the tribunal?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as I know, we cannot do that except by a change of the law. As my hon. colleague has said, we are perfectly prepared to consider a change of the law, but cannot do it overnight.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Since the Industrial Disputes Act does not apply to the journalists and as such they may not be allowed to appear before the Tribunal, will an enquiry be made in their particular case?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If it is possible without coming into conflict with the other enquiry, we shall certainly consider that.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: In view of the statement made by the hon. the Prime Minister, may I know, whether he is prepared to remit this case for enquiry by the Press Commission which is now in session?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How can we do it?

Shri K. K. Basu: Do Government propose to supersede the present enquiry and appoint a special enquiry committee as has been done in the case of the tramway fares, to look into the matter with much wider terms of reference?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer that straightway. It is very difficult.

Shri V. V. Giri: It is very difficult to answer that question unless it is considered properly.

Shri P. C. Bose: If the company, as is reported, are winding up all their business, what will happen if any compensation is ordered as a result of the enquiry?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no such intention.

Shri Joachim Alva: Does the Ministry of Labour propose to place its views regarding newspaper employees, both editorial and non-editorial, before the Press Commission and does it intend to arm itself with sufficient powers in case the Calcutta occurrence repeats itself in Delhi?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certainly that aspect will be considered.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Is the Government aware, Sir, that the workers who were thrown out represented to the State Government that if the State Government would help them they are ready to run it on a co-operative basis?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have no information.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I know, Sir, whether there is any provision or procedure for the Government of India to enquire into the losses or profits of an industrial undertaking of this type before they arrive at a decision to retrench people?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a question of interpretation of law.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: My question is rather limited. Is there any procedure to satisfy themselves that a particular undertaking is losing money for them to embark on retrenchment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should Government be forced to commit itself to a view now? They will look into it.

डा० युगल किशोर सिंह: न्यूजपेपर्स इम्पलायीज में जो लोग इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्पयूट्स ऐक्ट के अन्दर वर्कमेन नहीं कहे जाते हैं और जिनका मामला इंडसट्रियल ट्रिबयुनल के सामनें नहीं है ऐसे कर्मचारियों के मामले की जांच कराकर उचित कार्रवाई करने में सरकार को क्या आपत्ति हो सकती है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find that it is the same question, which has already been put. I will not allow any more questions on this.

STRIKE BY WORKERS OF BANKSIMULIA COLLIERY

II. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of Banksimulia Colliery are on strike since 1st September, 1953;

(b) the number of workers involved;

(c) the demands of the workers;

(d) the action that has been taken by the Conciliation Officer and Regional Labour Commissioner on the demands of the workers;

(e) whether the Police have resorted to firing on the workers on 1st September 1953 resulting in the death of a worker and injuries to several others; and

(f) what action do Government propose to take to end the strike.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes; the workers were on strike during the period 1st to 7th September 1953.

(b) About 10,000.

(c) The following were the immediate demands of the workers who went on strike:—

(i) Re-instatement of discharged workers.

(ii) Rates for tubs for miners.

(iii) Non-victimisation of workers.

(d) The Conciliation Officer (Central), Asansol, conciliated in the dispute and as a result of his intervention an agreement was reached between the parties. A copy of the Agreement dated the 6th September 1953 is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 29.]

(e) Police had to resort to firing because a violent mob of about 4,000 workers forcibly tried to stop the work at the Poniati Workshop, raided the family quarters and beat the police party with lathies. As a result of the firing, a trammer was killed and two others injured. One Police Officer, three Police Inspectors and four constables were also injured.

(f) Does not arise. As stated in the reply to part (a) of the question, the strike ended on the 7th September 1953.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, of the cause of the strike was that the miners were asked to load 42 c.ft. tubes as against the 36 c.ft. tubes under the Conciliation Award?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not aware of it. However, an agreement has been reached between both the parties.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware of the fact that if the Regional Labour Commissioner had taken prompt steps, the dispute would have been solved long ago and it would not have resulted in police firing?

Shri V. V. Giri: In this particular case the Regional Labour Commissioner took prompt steps.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, whether the Industrial Tribunal to go into the question of the grievances of coal miners has been constituted? If not, the reasons for the delay?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is being finalised and will be constituted very soon.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, whether this particular coal-field belongs to a British group of colliery mines which gives the highest dividend and as such, the economic demands of the workers could have been met if the Government was aware of the situation?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government was certainly very vigilant of the situation and I can give particulars also.

FLOODS IN ORISSA

III. Shri Sanganna: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the floods in the river Godavari in the South, the river Subarnamukhi in the East and the river Mahanadi in the West of Orissa have caused colossal damage of the standing staple crops in the respective regions?

(b) Have Government received any reports from the Government of Orissa seeking for any assistance and suggesting reduction of export quota of rice outside the State?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A copy of a telegraphic report received from the State Government is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 30.]

(b) No.

(c) The matter primarily concerns the State Government, who are taking necessary action to afford relief to the affected people.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: With your permission, Sir, I would like to read a brief summary of the report sent to us by the Government of Orissa.

Floods in Tributaries of Godavari.—The river Govadari is in Madras. Its tributaries, Saberi and Silaree, have affected a portion of Karaput district in Orissa. Two villages were under water. The State Government took timely action to evacuate villagers and also made proper arrangements for feeding them. Several Katcha houses, Police Outpost and Sevashram School were washed away. Pucca houses were also damaged. Loss to private property is estimated at Rs. 10,000. The Motu Industries lost almost all their timber bamboos and Bidi leaves. The Secretary of the Industries has estimated the loss at about Rs. 1 lakh. The State Government have arranged for medical assistance and disinfectants for the affected people and have also made temporary huts for villagers. They have sanctioned Rs. 5,000 for rebuilding houses, distributed Rs. 800 as cash relief and have sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 30,000.

Floods in Subarnarekha.—The floods in Subarnarekha have affected standing crops on 10,000 acres of land. The exact number of persons affected is not yet known. Dwelling houses of 69 families and 15 labour hutments were damaged completely or partly. 368 persons were affected by the damage to houses. The State Government have made arrangements for sale of subsidised rice at a cost of Rs. 3,000 and for free supply of rice to 7 families without earning male members at a cost of Rs. 300. A sum of Rs. 49 was given as immediate relief to worst affected persons. The State Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 24,000 under *taccavi* loan.

Floods in Mahanadi.—A breach at Galadhari at Balikuda Police Station affected crops on nearly 300 acres. The State Government have sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for emergent expenditure and an additional sum of Rs. 30,500 under *taccavi* loan. Damage has also been reported from branches of Mahanadi. The State Government have not yet received complete details. The Collectors have been authorised to grant immediate relief and loans. The details of expenditure are not yet available.

Neither this Ministry nor the Ministry of Finance have received any request from the Government of Orissa for any assistance for flood relief.

Shri Sanganna: Do Government propose to give compensation for the loss sustained by the Government of Orissa?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the Central Government is concerned, the question will arise only after a demand is made by the Orissa Government.

Shri Sanganna: Is Government aware that the properties of Central Government servants are affected, and if so, does the Government propose to grant some amounts for giving relief to them just as they are given in other States which are affected by floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Similar treatment will be given on the principles which we have accepted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRICES OF COARSE FOOD GRAINS IN SAURASHTRA

*1284. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Saurashtra consulted the Central Government before deciding to fix the floor prices of coarse food grains with a view to assuring a fair return to the cultivators;

(b) whether the floor prices of coarse food grains have been fixed; and

(c) if so, how these prices compare with the prices prevalent in non-rationed areas of the neighbouring States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). No floor prices have so far been fixed by the Saurashtra Government for coarse grains. The Saurashtra Government did consult the Central Government sometime back, when they stated, that owing to the expected bumper crop of bajra this year, there was the possibility of open market prices of bajra getting unduly depressed after the harvest. They were advised that they could, in that case, purchase bajra at Rs. 9/8/- per maund to give a support to the prices. The matter is; however, still receiving the attention of the Saurashtra Government.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) and (b), this question does not arise.

RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI

*1293. **Shri Ramji Verma:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, was decentralised in July, 1953;

(b) what were the reasons for the decentralisation of this office;

(c) the arrangements that have been made by Government for the absorption of the staff of the said office; and

(d) what are the rules and orders governing the seniority of the staff of the office referred to in part (a)?

above on their absorption by the offices to which they may be posted permanently?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, by two stages, in August 1952 and July 1953.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 31.]

(c) The staff of the Central and Western Railway Sections will ultimately by absorbed on the Northern Railway with the exception of such persons who volunteer to be absorbed on the two Railways.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

बीकानेर डिवीजन में रेलों का समय पर न चलना

*१२९४. **श्री पी० एल० बारूपाल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि बीकानेर व जोधपुर से आने वाली गाड़ी के यात्रियों को यदि अजमेर या उस से आगे जाना हो तो उन को दिन भर फुलेरा स्टेशन पर ठहरना पड़ता है ?

(ख) यदि हां तो क्या इन गाड़ियोंका समय बदला जा सकता है ?

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले दो महीनों से उत्तरी रेलवे के बीकानेर डिवीजन में रेल कर्मचारियों की कमी के कारण गाड़ियां ठीक समय पर नहीं चल रही हैं ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes in the case of those passengers who arrive at Phulera by 206 Down Agra Express.

(b) The timings are being revised with effect from 1st October, 1953, as below, to provide suitable connection at Phulera:—

206 Down Phulera arrival 7:24 hrs.

231 Up Phulera departure 7:57 hrs.

(c) No.

राजस्थान में टिड्डी-नाशक कार्यवाही

*१२९५. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह महता** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) राजस्थान में टिड्डियों से होने वाली क्षति से बचाने के काम में कुल कितने कर्मचारी लगे हुए हैं ?

(ख) इन में से अधिकारी कितने हैं और स्टाफ़ के आदमी कितने ?

(ग) इस काम पर वार्षिक व्यय कितना होता है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The number of men employed is approximately 800 including the revenue staff engaged by the Government of Rajasthan on behalf of the Central Government.

(b) The number of officers is 9 and the remaining 791 are of the other ranks.

(c) Rupees 19 lakhs.

RICE FOR MADRAS

*1296. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have requested the Government of India to allot them additional quantities of rice to meet their commitments arising out of the Godavari floods;

(b) if so, the quantities asked; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 22,000 tons.

(c) The Government of India have agreed to supply this quantity.

EXPORT OF ORE FROM CALCUTTA

***1297. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of Calcutta Port can be increased so that it might handle larger quantities of mineral ore from Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open a port somewhere on the Orissa Coast?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

STRIKE NOTICE BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

***1298. Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad has not started conciliation proceeding under clause 22(a) of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, even after receiving a strike notice as per rules from "All India Railway Ministerial Staff's Federation" under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad to start formal conciliation proceedings; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The All India Railway Ministerial Staff Federation, Jamalpur, served a notice of strike on the Minister for Railways on the 24th July 1953 and sent a copy thereof to the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Dhanbad. On receipt of the notice, the Regional Labour Commissioner visited the Jamalpur Workshops and discussed the demands of the Federation with the local Railway Authorities. He also met the Secretary of the Federation and explained to him that the Federation's demands could be placed before the Tribunal appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of Railways to go into the grievances of the Railway Workers and that the Federation should first exhaust the remedies available for settling disputes through the departmental machinery.

(c) Does not arise.

SLOW DOWN STRIKE BY RAILWAY STAFF

***1299. Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministerial Staff of Indian Railways are continuing a "slow down" strike under the directions of All India Railway Ministerial Staff's Federation, Jamalpur, for the revision of pay scales and other demands; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to settle the dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have not noticed any such situation.

(b) Does not arise.

PASSENGERS BOUND FOR INDIA IN SINGAPORE

***1300. Prof. Mathew:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a P.T.I report in the newspapers that hundreds of passengers bound for India especially for Madras are stranded in Singapore with no hopes of obtaining a passage for at least six weeks, mainly due to the commissioning of two vessels to transport the Indian custodian forces to Korea; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are contemplated to shorten the period for which the passengers will have to wait before they can get a passage?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. The Government have seen the report in the press.

(b) Necessary steps have been taken and it is hoped that regular services will be resumed from Singapore to Madras about the 1st of October.

POST OFFICE AT PASUMALAI

***1301. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the night of 30th August, 1953. some unknown persons attacked the Post Office at Pasumalai, Madura District, in Madras State and took away cash and postal stamps from the office?

(b) If so, what is the amount of estimated loss to Government?

(c) What were the causes of the theft?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There was no attack on the post office. A burglary occurred on the 30th August, 1953.

(b) A sum of Rs. 411/6/9 is reported to have been lost.

(c) Burglary, which is being investigated.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

***1302. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state how many representatives were sent by the Government of India to the 'World Conference on Medical Education' that was held recently in London?

(b) Was there any report submitted to Government by the representatives who attended this conference?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) None

(b) Does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE TRIBUNALS

***1303. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Dispute Tribunals that have been formed in different regions of India and the places where they sit;

(b) whether the Tribunal functioning for the State of Assam sit in Calcutta;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are comparatively large number of cases coming from the State of Assam; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to hold sittings of the Tribunal in Gauhati or any other town in Assam?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). In so far as the Central Government are concerned, two standing Tribunals, one at Dhanbad and the other at Calcutta, have been set up under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to which disputes in central sphere undertakings are referred for adjudication. Under the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, a Labour Appellate Tribunal has been set up with its headquarters at Calcutta and two outlying benches, one at Lucknow and the other at Bombay for hearing appeals from the awards of all Tribunals in the country.

(c) No. Upto the 31st August 1953. only twenty-two appeals from Assam have been filed this year before the Appellate Tribunal against a total of 493 appeals.

(d) It is understood that the headquarters Bench of the Appellate Tribunal proposes to hold sittings at a suitable place in Assam as soon as it finds it possible to do so.

FOOD SUBSIDY

***1304. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have made some demand for subsidy for the sale of foodgrains in the flood-affected areas of North Bihar;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government of India on this matter;

(c) whether any demand for food subsidy was made by any other State Governments in current year 1953; and

(d) if so, the name of such State Governments and decision of the Central Government on their demand?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). No request for subsidy has been received. A request for sharing the loss involved in concessional sale of foodgrains in the flood affected areas has been received from the Bihar Government and is under consideration.

(c) and (d). Yes, the States of West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bombay, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin wanted the Central Government to pay subsidy on imported foodgrains supplied to them. Except in the case of Travancore-Cochin, the request has been turned down in all cases.

ACCIDENT TO "S.S. CHANDRAVATI"

***1305. Shri M. D. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the accident to the passenger steamer the "S.S. Chandravati" of the Bombay Steam Navigation Co. near Malwan Port, on the West Coast some months ago?

(b) How many passengers were on board the ship at the time of the accident?

(c) Was there any loss of life?

(d) What was the total loss to the ship?

(e) Have Government decided to make an inquiry into the causes that led to this accident?

(f) Is it a fact that the entrance to Malwan Port is rocky and dangerous for the entry of ships?

(g) Is it a fact that sufficient beacon light arrangements are not provided to mark the precise passage line for ships?

(h) If so, what steps have Government taken to ensure safe entry and exit of ships in Malwan Port?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) 192.

(c) There was no loss of life.

(d) The information is not available.

(e) A preliminary inquiry into the cause of the accident, as required under section 247 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, has been held and the report of the inquiry is at present under examination.

(f) The entrance to the port is doubtless rocky but it cannot be said to be dangerous for the entry of ships in fair weather. The port is closed during the monsoons.

(g) and (h). The accident has highlighted the need for providing additional lights and improving the existing ones. Plans towards this end are being drawn up but since the port is a minor one and the lights would be "local lights" the financial responsibility for execution of the works would be that of the State Government.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST

***1307. Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more than three-fourth of the mineral ores exported through the ports of Calcutta and Vizagapatnam come from the Orissa State?

(b) Have Government been approached to take action under Rules 5 and 6 of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 to give place to a representative of the Orissa Chamber of Commerce in the body of the Commissioner of the Calcutta Port Trust?

(c) Has the representation been considered and any decision taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) is true that a substantial percentage of the ore shipments through Calcutta and Visakhapatnam originates from Orissa.

(b) Yes.

(c) The representation is under consideration.

UDAIPUR-BANSWARA TELEPHONE LINE

***1308. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state when the rehabilitation of the telephone line between Udaipur-Banswara will be taken in hand?

(b) Why the rehabilitation work has been delayed hitherto?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The rehabilitation of the line between Udaipur and Dungarpur will be taken in hand by the end of this financial year. The scheme relating to the line to Banswara is under examination.

(b) The financial effects of the respective schemes have to be fully examined before sanction can issue.

FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR

***1309. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to answer to short notice question No. 55 asked on the 3rd September, 1953 regarding floods in Bihar and state:

(a) whether the request from the Bihar State Government for aid has been considered and decision taken in the matter; and

(b) what measures of aid for immediate relief, if any, have been taken so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The request of the Bihar Government is still under consideration.

(b) The House has already been informed of the measures taken by the State Government for affording immediate relief to the people affected by floods in reply to the Short Notice Question No. 55 which was replied on the 3rd September, 1953.

GANGA BRIDGE PROJECT

***1310. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the technical details plans and estimates of the Ganga Bridge Project at Mokameh in Bihar have been finalised?

(b) Has the organisation to execute the work been set up and manned?

(c) If so, what is the nature and framework of that organisation?

(d) What is the total estimated expenditure involved giving separate figures for important parts of the Project?

(e) What will be the time taken to complete the work?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Most of the plans are ready, but the estimate is under preparation.

(b) The nucleus has been formed and the rest is gradually taking shape.

(c) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 32]

RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL AT UDAIPUR

658. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Western Railway, had been sent to Udaipur to enquire and report in connection with the location of Railway Training School there?

(b) If so, which locality did he suggest and what were the reasons for it?

(c) What amount of money is expected to be incurred on the proposed building?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Chief Engineer, Western Railway, recommended, the Fatehpura site as it was more suitable. The Improvement Trust had guaranteed to supply plentiful water both for domestic and garden use and they were also prepared to provide underground sewerage system on the outskirts of the proposed colony.

(c) Approximate cost Rs. 67.5 lakhs for School buildings, quarters and ancillary works, and Rs. 7 lakhs for land.

BREACHES IN RAILWAY LINES

659. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions during the last three years when breaches in the railway line between Jullundur Cantonment and Hoshiarpur City were caused due to rains;

(b) whether the breaches have taken place at the same place from year to year; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Once in 1951 and once in 1953. One breach occurred at the same place on both occasions. No breaches occurred in 1952.

(c) Proposals for protecting the railway bank on this section are under examination.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN PUNJAB

660. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National Highways in the State of Punjab;

(b) on which of them, communications are interrupted during the rains; and

(c) the steps Government contemplate to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 33]

(c) Estimates have been sanctioned for a number of bridge works which are in progress and estimates for some more bridges are under examination or preparation.

432 P.S.D.

STAFF OF TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT AT MANDI

661. **Shri Gopi Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the entire staff in Telephone Department at Mandi and Sunder Nagar (Himachal Pradesh) has been absorbed in the Central Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department after taking over the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees are still drawing pre-merger State pay scales?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the pay scales of the employees in the near future?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff was in the permanent service of the State Government during the pre-merger time and now they are in the category of work-charged employees?

(e) If so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Orders have been issued to fix their pay in the Central Scales.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b).

(d) Information to the first part of the question is not available. Reply to the second part is in the negative.

(e) Does not arise.

TASK WORK MESSENGERS

662. **Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that senior Task work messengers in receipt of an aggregate sum of Rs. 50 per month as subsistence allowance plus Task work earnings suffer a loss of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per month when promoted to the grade of Jamadar?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take early steps to remove this anomaly?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, but the loss suffered does not exceed Rs. 10/- per mensem, as the minimum pay of Jemadar's scale is Rs. 40/-.

(b) The matter is already under consideration of Government.

MUNSHI—MARKERS

663. Shri Ramananda Das: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status of Munshi--Markers in Telegraph Offices has recently been upgraded from class IV to class III;

(b) whether the upgrading has been applied uniformly in all Telegraph Offices; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

UNIONS WORKING IN MICA MINES

664. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Unions working in the Mica Mines area of Bihar;

(b) the strength of membership of each;

(c) the basis on which their representation is allowed on the Central Mica Advisory Committee and the Central Labour Advisory Board; and

(d) which of the Unions are represented on any or both of the above Boards?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Two; the Mica Labour Union and the Abrakh Mazdoor Union.

(b) Information is not available.

(c) No representation has been given to any mica labour union on the Central Mica Advisory Committee.

There is no Central Labour Advisory Board functioning as such. There is, however, a Central Advisory Board constituted under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The nominations to this Board in respect of each scheduled employment, including employment in Mica Works are made in consultation with the State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

पटसन की कृषि

६६५. श्री बी० मिश्र : क्या **खाद्य तथा कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५३ में बिहार राज्य में कितने एकड़ भूमि में पटसन की कृषि हुई है और अनुमानतः उत्पादन कितना होगा ?

(ख) प्रति एकड़ उत्पादन व्यय कितना होता है ?

(ग) कोसी, बलान तथा गंडक नदियों में बाढ़ आने के कारण इस वर्ष पटसन के बह जाने से अनुमानतः कितनी क्षति हुई है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The area under jute in Bihar State (excluding merged territories) during the year 1953-54 according to the all-India First Estimate of jute is 330,000 acres. Data regarding the estimated production of jute in Bihar in the year 1953-54 are not yet available as such data are included in the all-India Final Estimate of Jute, which is due for release on the 7th November, 1953.

(b) Cost of production of jute would vary from field to field and variety to variety. The Indian Central Jute Committee have compiled some data for Purnea centre in Bihar State which show that in 1952 the average cost of production of jute was about Rs. 17/14/- per maund. Figures for 1953 are not yet available.

(c) The required data are not available.

TELEPHONE IN BIKANER CITY

666. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to increase the number of Public Telephones in Bikaner City as there is only one Public Call Office in the City with a population of about one and a half lakhs?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): At present four Public Call Offices are working in Bikaner at places indicated below:—

(i) Departmental Telegraph Office, Bikaner—Open for 24 hours.

(ii) Railway Station, Bikaner—Open for 24 hours.

(iii) City Post Office, Bikaner—Open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

(Calls can be booked in closed hours on payment of prescribed late fee).

(iv) Ganga Shahr—Open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

(Calls can be booked in closed hours on payment of prescribed late fee).

Another Public Call Office is proposed to be opened at Bhimasar Post Office (Bikaner).

RAILWAY OFFICE, CALCUTTA

667. Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Railway Office at 3, Koilaghat Street in Calcutta were given assurances at the time of the Railway re-grouping that they would not be transferred without their consent; and

(b) if so, whether any transfer has since been made in contravention of such assurances?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) An assurance was given on regrouping to the effect that no non-gazetted staff from Calcutta will be transferred to Gorakhpur or Delhi unless they volunteer for such transfers.

(b) No, Sir.

CATTLE

668. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state how much money the Central Government spent either itself or by giving grants to the States for the improvement of cattle in India during the period from 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948 and the financial years 1948-49 to 1951-52?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement giving the required information is:

Year	Amount spent or sanctioned.
	Rs.
1947-48 (from 15-8-47 to 31-3-48).	30,20,344
1948-49	52,40,063
1949-50	39,34,999
1950-51	35,90,320
1951-52	50,81,724

CARRIAGE OF MAILS FOR GODDA

669. Shri Bhagwat Jha: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mails bound for Godda, a sub-Divisional headquarter in the district of Santal, is carried through Dumka;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this practice delays the mail by several hours; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Godda Bar Association and other bodies have written repeatedly to the Post Master General, Patna for carrying the mail straight from Jasidih to Godda?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Delay of 12 hours occurs in order to connect other mails for Godda. Instructions have been issued to eliminate this delay.

(c) One complaint from Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad M.P. and another from the public of Godda have been received. None from the Gooda Bar Association.

RAJPUTANA DESERT

670. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made with regard to the time required to completely arrest the onward movement of the Rajputana desert; and

(b) the total amount spent so far by the Central Government in this connection?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Information is not available.

(b) Rs. 70,000 in 1952-53. The budget for 1953-54 is Rs. 4 lakhs. The actuals against this budget are not yet available.

RESTORATION OF TELEPRINTER CONNECTIONS IN ALLAHABAD

671. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether teleprinter connections have been restored in Allahabad since the breakdown due to storm on the 23rd August, 1953;

(b) whether all the lines in Allahabad have been restored together with tele-communications;

(c) what was the estimated loss on account of the damage; and

(d) what time has been taken to restore all the communications?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rs. 6000/- approximately.

(d) 16 to 24 hours for main line communications and one to five days for local telephone lines.

ग्रामों में मनी आर्डरों का देर से भुगतान

६७२. श्री जांगड़े : क्या **संचरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न प्रयोगात्मक ग्रामीण डाकघरों में मनी आर्डरों के काग़ज़ पहुंच जाने पर भी डाक विभाग के लेखा कार्यालय अथवा उपकार्यालय लगभग १५ दिन तक मनी आर्डर की रक़म नहीं भेजते ?

(ख) यदि 'हां' तो इस के क्या कारण हैं ?

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि तार मनी आर्डरों की रक़म भी १० दिन तक नहीं मिलती ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The attention of Hon'ble Member is invited to the reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 542 dated 25th July 1952.

(b) and (c). Ordinary and telegraphic money orders payable by post offices situated in villages are routed through their account offices which usually remit also the money required for payment of such money orders. Sometimes, however, money is not remitted along with the money orders for the following reasons:—

(i) Where a number of branch post offices are on the same runner line and when the aggregate cash to be sent to all the offices on the line exceeds the permissible limit, the remittance for individual offices has to be reduced. Even in such cases, the balance of the remittance required for payment is sent through departmental officials, as soon as possible.

(ii) Payment of the money orders is, sometimes, delayed on account of the rule prescribing a limit of cash to be entrusted to Extra Departmental delivery agents.

Steps have been taken to replace mail runners lines by motor lines which admit of more cash being sent on the same line. Instructions have also been issued to appoint more departmental officials to supply cash, with a view to reducing the incidence of delays further.

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS

673. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what measures do Government propose to take to relieve the overcrowding on the *ex*-Barsi Light Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is normally no overcrowding on the Barsi Light Railway except during times of fairs. Measures taken to relieve overcrowding on such occasions include the provision of specially converted vehicles for the use of passengers. This railway is being taken over by Government on 1st January, 1954, when additional third class coaches are expected to be made available for use on the railway.

VENDING CONTRACTS

674. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Vallabdas Iswardas are vending contractors for tea stalls, refreshment rooms, buffets and dining cars, on various stations on a number of Railways; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such stations and names of the Railways where they have such vending contracts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Central Railway.—Tea and Food stalls at 9 stations, Refreshment Rooms at 6 stations, Buffet Cars on Bombay-Poona Mail and Bombay-Poona Express trains and Refreshment Car on Grand Trunk Express between Delhi and Balharshah.

Eastern Railway.—Tea and Sweetmeat stalls at 88 stations, Tea room at 1 station, Refreshment Rooms at 18 stations and Indian Style Dining Car on Toofan Express between Howrah and Moghalsarai.

Northern Railway.—Tea, Sweetmeat stalls and platform vending at 10 stations, Refreshment Rooms at 8 stations and Indian Style Dining Car on Toofan Express between Moghalsarai and Delhi.

बनस्पति तेल के कारखाने

६७५. **श्री जांगड़े** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९४७, १९४८, १९४९, १९५०, १९५१ तथा १९५२ के वर्षों में बनस्पति तेल के कारखानों की कितनी संख्या थी और १९५३ में कितनी है ?

(ख) उक्त वर्षों में बनस्पति तेल का प्रति सेर, प्रति मन अथवा प्रति टन क्या भाव रहा है ?

(ग) इन वर्षों में इन कारखानों में बनस्पति तेलों में रंग डालने के लिये कौन कौन से और कितने प्रयोग किये गये हैं ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a)—

Year	No. of factories
1947	24
1948	27
1949	42
1950	45
1951	46
1952	49
1953	49

(b) —

Year	Average Wholesale price per ton at Bombay
	Rs.
1947	1855
1948	2065
1949	2205
1950	2415
1951	2514
1952	2083
1953 (upto June 1953).	2327

(c) Nil.

EXPRESS TRAIN FROM PATNA TO JAINAGER

676. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum time taken by a passenger train from Patna to Darbhanga, a distance of not more than one hundred miles on the North Eastern Railway is about nine hours;

(b) what are the reasons that so much time is taken to cover this distance;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide an express train on this section of the Railway from Patna to Jainager; and

(d) if so, when that proposal will be given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Minimum time taken by train *cum* steamer journey between Patna (Mahendrughat) and Darbhanga is 8 hours and 25 minutes.

(b) The present overall journey time of 8 hours and 25 minutes between Patna (Mahendrughat) and Darbhanga is mainly due to the following reasons:—

(i) to maintain important connections at Samastipur for Patna.

(ii) to provide halts of trains at all stations for the convenience of passengers.

(iii) restriction against the use of heavy passenger locomotives on the Darbhanga-Samastipur Section.

(iv) reduced speed over ghat section between Sonepore and Palezaghat.

(v) transhipment at Palezaghat and crossing the river by ferry steamer.

It is, however, expected from 1-10-53 to reduce the overall journey time between Patna (Mahendrughat) and Darbhanga by about one hour and twenty-five minutes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise

बम्बई-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस

६७७. श्री जांगड़े : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या नागपुर से होकर जाने वाली बम्बई से हावड़ा तक एक जनता एक्सप्रेस और डोंगरगढ़ से रायगढ़ तक एक लोकल गाड़ी चलाना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

(ख) सन् १९४७ से १९५३ तक नागपुर-कलकत्ता लाइन पर कितनी जनता एक्सप्रेस, यात्री गाड़ियां अथवा लोकल गाड़ियां कहां से कहां तक पुनः चालू की गई या नई चलाई गईं ?

(ग) क्या अभी तक हावड़ा-नागपुर जनता गाड़ी के लिये डिब्बे, इंजन तथा कोचेज उपलब्ध नहीं हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, when sufficient coaches and locomotives become available for the purpose.

(b) The following trains were restored, introduced or extended over the Nagpur-Howarh line between 1947 and 1953 involving 290 additional train miles per day:—

(i) Introduced one light parcel shuttle train each way between Khargpur and Chakradharpur.

(ii) Restored one local train each way between Nagpur and Kamptee and one local train from Amgaon to Gondia.

(iii) Extended one Nagpur-Gondia local train to run upto Amgaon.

(c) They are not yet available.

SUPPLY OF WAGONS TO NORTH BIHAR

678. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there has been any improvement in the supply position of Railway wagons to North Bihar now that the position in general is reported to have considerably improved?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Position in respect of wagon availability for meeting all the demands currently on the North Eastern Railway has not improved appreciably. As regards movement of traffic to North Bihar from the Broad Gauge, the ferry capacities across the Ganga river at Mokameh Ghat, Manihari Ghat, Sakrigali Ghat and Bhagalpur and the transhipment capacity at Manduadih continue to be the limiting factors.

PREVENTION OF SMOKING

679. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the names of the States which have implemented the recommendations of the Central Council of Health about the prevention of smoking by juveniles.

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The information required is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

WAITING ROOM AT DARBHANGA RAILWAY STATION

680. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that upper class passengers experience difficulties for want of accommodation in the existing waiting room at Darbhanga Railway Station on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that a new waiting room was constructed there but it has not been put to use; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No complaint has been received so far regarding any inconvenience caused to the upper class passengers due to shortage of accommodation.

(b) No. The new waiting room is now in use.

(c) Does not arise.

LAKSHMIPURHAT HALT

681. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered representations made against a move to abolish Lakshmipurhat Halt on the Baiharwa loop line of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that apart from the people inhabiting the 44 villages served by the Halt, all officers of West Bengal Government in the area have commended the request for conversion of the Halt into a flag station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The representations made are already under Government's consideration.

(b) The representations signed by a number of people had been forwarded to the Railway Administration by the Secretary to Chief Minister of West

Bengal as well as by the Refugee Rehabilitation Commissioner of the West Bengal Government.

CONFIRMATION OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

682. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary employees that have been confirmed during the year 1952-53 all over the Railways;

(b) the number which belong to *ex*-N.S. Railway Sector of the Central Railway out of them; and

(c) whether the assurance given by Government to confirm at the rate of 5,000 employees per month last year has been put into effect by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 9432 temporary employees of the former Indian Government Railways (excluding the *ex*-States Railways) were confirmed during 1952-53.

Information in regard to all *ex*-Indian States Railways is not available.

(b) 1372, but this is not included in the figure given in reply to (a).

(c) During 1952-53, Railways have been endeavouring to confirm as many temporary employees as possible having regard to the target of 5,000 per month which had been set previously. But the number confirmed is actually lower than 5,000 per month, mainly due to most of the possible confirmations having been made after the lifting of the ban on confirmation in 1949 and implementation of the Adjudicator's Award. At present in grades other than the initial recruitment grades confirmations are held up pending finalisation of combined seniority lists of the various categories of staff on the regrouped Railways.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Acc. ... Dated 25.11.20

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 15th September, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

9-43 A.M.

THE ESTATE DUTY BILL—*concld.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us now proceed with further consideration of the Estate Duty Bill, as amended. Nine members have already participated in the discussion on the Third Reading of the Bill. It might have been closed last night, but there were several members who wished to speak. Will hon. Members, therefore, be short and brief in their speeches on this discussion?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hoogly): I think, Sir, we should congratulate the Finance Minister on the way he has piloted this difficult Bill. Possibly, since this Parliament was elected on adult suffrage, this is the most difficult and complicated measure that has been placed before it. We should appreciate the cool, calculating and adroit manner in which he has steered this measure through the legislative anvil.

Our regret is that the Finance Minister did not accept our plea for an appellate tribunal. I am quite sure that in a short time he will realise his mistake. The Select Committee itself pointed out that an appellate tribunal will have to be set up in the near future. I think that in a measure of this kind, where the people will be extremely nervous because of the wide and uncontrolled powers given to the Controller without any appeal to an independent tribunal, it would have been very desirable to have some judicial tribunal functioning over them.

The other regret is that the Finance Minister did not accept our suggestion of payment of duty in kind. That is allowed in England and is a very salutary check against over-valuation. That would have been desirable both from the point of view of revenue and the assessees. Unfortunately he has not accepted it. I hope that the Finance Minister in a short time will realise that it would be desirable to have such a provision and that he would amend this statute to incorporate a provision like section 56 of the United Kingdom Finance Act of 1910.

Then, there were some other items of regret: with regard to limited scope of exemption; next, no exemption for dwelling house; and last but not the least, restrictions on the transferability of shares. I am sorry, Sir, I could not make my point clear. I refer to the very serious effect likely to be created by the provisions relating to the transferability of shares in sub-clause (2) of clause 80. I need not go into details at this stage. But suppose a man transfers certain shares, say, a thousand Tata shares, to X for a lakh of rupees, and two years afterwards X goes to the bank and asks for an advance for his business, naturally

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

the bank will say "Have your name put on the books of your company and then we will advance you the requisite money". He will go to the company and this Act solemnly says: X will have to produce a certificate showing that his transferor's estate has paid all the estate duty. That is a very very peculiar order, which means really that a living person who has acquired interest in certain shares is being debarred from enjoying the fruits of his transfer. That is not fair.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): It is sufficient if he shows that he has paid consideration.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: I know, you have got to show it to the Director. and you know that in actual practice the directors behave in a very peculiar manner. I am pointing out there may be intermediary transfers. blank transfers and a chain of transferees. and in such cases it will be more difficult. I hope that this thing will be deleted. The stock exchanges. we are assured. have approved of this. We have accepted this kind of amendment. but it is wrong. They will realise in the future that it will have a great deleterious effect on capital formation and company flotation. and you will have to change this law.

Against all this regret I must strike a note of joy. as a Bengali and as a Hindu governed by the Dayabhaga law, that the Finance Minister has been good enough to respond to our appeal. I have said repeatedly this is not a provincial cry, this is not a parochial cry, this is not a communal cry but in the interests of justice and fairplay. I gave figures to the House repeatedly. What are the figures? It will help Mr. Thomas also, and persons acquiring separate property in Bombay Gujerat. everywhere. It is not Mitakshara *versus* Dayabhaga. Millions of people who have self-acquired property and who are governed by the Mitakshara law will also be benefited by this little exemption. I was amazed to find that very old veterans went hysterical over this alleged discrimination. They were behaving like hysterical old girls. That would have been all right on the cricket field but not on the forum of this Parliament! I was amazed to hear my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. Seriously does he mean that there is discrimination? Seriously does he mean that the Finance Minister has done something against the fundamental rights of the Constitution? Nothing of the kind. Article 14 has been elucidated repeatedly by the Supreme Court of India. Equality does not mean that there can be no classification. The doctrine of equality is borrowed from America. The Supreme Court of America has repeatedly laid down that fundamental equality of law means equal protection of law, but it does not mean that there will be no classification. It means the classification must be rational, the classification must be reasonable, the classification must be based on intelligible criteria having some kind of nexus or relationship with the objects of this tax.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): The Supreme Court has also recognised the principle of classification.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Our Supreme Court have also held that that doctrine is the correct interpretation, and that is the law for India. Suppose there is a joint family consisting of a Mitakshara father and five sons with three lakhs of property. Suppose the father dies. The estate will not pay anything. But in the case of a Dayabhaga Hindu or a Christian if there is a father and five sons and Rs. 3 lakhs property, if the father dies the estate will have to pay Rs 23,000. What the Minister has done is to lessen this, to reduce the disparity. He has made some classification. I do not say what he has now done is reasonable—it is still not on a parity. But it has some kind of a reasonable relation to the object in view. That is not unfair. It is perfectly fair and there is no reason for this hysteria. I am perfectly prepared to prove it in any court of law that this is not repugnant to article 14 or 15. What is he talking about? Is there a discrimination based on religion? We are all Hindus, and there is no discrimination against Hindus. Nobody is saying that "because you are professing a particular religion you are being subjected to a higher burden of taxation". The inequality in the incidence of taxation has to some extent been redressed by this kind of measure.

There are certain other points. We are sorry that a lower slab was not accepted in the schedule. I hope that the five per cent. would be reduced to a lower slab. In England estate duties have broken up large estates, and in the latest book of Dymond it is said......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even in the third reading should we refer to Dymond?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: I am not referring to Dymond's annotation.

Shri Gadgil: Diamond is cutting now!

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Dymond has said that the increased estate duty in recent years is having a disastrous effect on many estates, especially those consisting mainly of assets not readily turned into money, for example, business assets, unquoted shares or private estate, land farming, stocks and valuable charities. It has to some extent retarded capital formation, company flotation. I am afraid the same kind of thing will happen in India. In respect of the Five Year Plan, to a large extent we are depending on the private sector. Are you not to some extent crippling the private sector by this kind of legislation? I hope that the private sector won't be completely paralysed. But we thought certain safeguards could be introduced which would make the position easier for capital formation

Then there are certain other points with regard to charitable trusts and so on. We expect that no time limit should be imposed. That has not been done. There is also one other point. We expect that as in the Australian statute something should be done to the effect that any gift to a benevolent institution—apart from the statutory period—should be completely exempted. That should have been done. It is there even in very much advanced countries having easier succession duty, and that should have also been followed in this country.

There is one other fact that I would ask the Finance Minister to remember for future legislation. Investments made in new ventures should be exempted. If that is done, it would help company flotation and may not cripple the development of business in this country. That has been done in Pakistan; that has been done in some other countries. It is very necessary that that should be allowed in our country. I think that is all I should say. The only thing that I should press upon the hon. Finance Minister and this House is that this rate which we have fixed should have some kind of permanency in it. The Finance Minister said that it is not the intention to change it. He should say that at least for 10 or 15 years this shall be the law. We cannot say, and the Parliament in its sovereign authority has no right to legislate that this shall be the law for 10 or 15 years because Parliament has got the right to amend any law at any time. But, certainly, if the Finance Minister makes a declaration, there is some continuity in the governmental administration, I take it, and whoever the Finance Minister is, will pay due deference to the proclamation made by the present Finance Minister and the country will not be disturbed by a feeling of insecurity and the people will know where they are. My hon. friend Mr. Gadgil said that Members of Parliament should pass this Estate Duty Bill, die quickly, pay the duty and go to heaven. We shall die quickly, pay

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

the duty and go to heaven. But, the question is, shall we meet Mr. Gadgil there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the estate acquired will be spent in bye-elections?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Shall we meet in heaven all our friends who helped Mr. Gadgil in tightening the Bill against the poor assessees and poor middle class people?

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make some observations at the Third Reading of this Bill.

At the outset, I must join my hon. friend Mr. Chatterjee in congratulating the Finance Minister who has so ably piloted the Bill and thank him for the consideration he has shown to the several suggestions in an open and bold manner. I do wish to say at this stage that though so many suggestions were made, he has accepted only a few. But, I am sure that after experience he will be able to realise that a certain number of the amendments that were proposed were necessary in view of the conditions in this country. In my own way I did my best to put forward certain suggestions. I must thank the Finance Minister for having accepted a few of them.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: A little more than a few.

Shri Tulsidas: A little more than a few, as my hon. friend says. But, I feel that he has kept his mind open and I am sure that he is not looking at this Bill only as a measure of revenue, but also looking at it from the point of view of its socio-economic effect in the country.

10 A.M.

I know that he did take exception to a remark which I made at the consideration stage of the Bill. I said that the Bill was a sort of a hotch-potch; He took exception to this remark. But, I would like to point out to him, with due deference, the changes which have been made in the Bill originally introduced, at the Select Committee stage and by this House. The complicated language of the several clauses, if I may say so, worded rather clumsily, might create a certain amount of confusion or apprehension in the mind of the different sections of the people. I would only request him to see that this Bill is administered both by the CBR and the officials who will administer this Bill at least in the spirit—not literally—in which it has emerged from this House. I know that in a piece of legislation of this nature, it is not possible to phrase the different clauses in a more simple manner. He did remark also that it requires complicated language because the ways of evasion are also complicated. I fully appreciate his difficulties and I could well understand that the Bill could not be put in a simpler language. But, I would like him to refer to the statute in New Zealand which is as simple as can be understood easily by the people. A cursory glance at the provisions of that Act will convince any one that it is possible to have a measure of this kind in simple language. I do not wish to go into that; we are in the Third Reading stage and I have no desire to ask that he should change the language now. I am only reminding him of the point that I made that it is possible to have a measure of this kind in a language which would be understood by everybody. In view of the complexity of the measure, I hope at least the administration of the Act would be such as will avoid any hardship to the persons liable to pay the duty and I hope that this measure will not become an instrument of harassment or oppression. I also hope that the Finance Minister will give instructions to publish explanatory pamphlets to help the department and also the tax-paying public in understanding all the duties, liabilities and rights under the Act in the initial stage so that the people will be able to know how this Act will be administered.

The administration should be in a proper spirit; the proper spirit should prevail not only at the highest level, but it should be seen that it percolates to every person connected with the administration of this Act so as not to result in any avoidable hardship.

I had also mentioned during the Second Reading that there will be more difficulties to the estates which are of a marginal nature. There will also be difficulties for estates which are within the exemption limit. It is for these estates that I feel that the procedure must be very simple, so that there may be no misgiving in the mind of the people that every one has to go through this machinery which would always result in some amount of difficulty in the day to day life of the people. You know very well, Sir, that it is these estates which have to bear the brunt. I have seen the Finance Minister's remarks made yesterday that it is from the middle class estates that he expects a larger revenue, because a large number of estates will be of the middle class. I would only suggest that it is this class which requires more sympathy from the Finance Minister. I know it is not possible to prescribe a simpler procedure for these estates. But, I feel that it is possible and it can be done so that these small estates or marginal estates may not have to go through this procedure of getting a certificate before they could do whatever they like with the properties that they inherit. I would also like to make one more observation with regard to the administrative side. With regard to controlled companies, I had made my observations, and I was sorry that the Finance Minister was not here at the time I made those observations, but I may once again repeat that the Clauses which are embodied in this Act in regard to controlled companies are very complicated. They are absolutely copied from the U.K. Act. I can well understand that it is not possible to do anything else, but as I mentioned, certain sections found in the U.K Act have not been embodied in this Bill. Instead of those sections, we have brought in here the rule-making powers which will be given to the Central Board of Revenue. I know that the officials in the Central Board of Revenue are fully conversant with the working of the controlled companies, and perhaps in the initial stage these rule-making powers will be flexible, so that whenever there are difficulties, the Central Board of Revenue may be able to assist......

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Easier to correct.

Shri Tulsidas: After a certain amount of experience, I hope that those sections found in the U.K. Act will be included in this statute also.

As I mentioned earlier, different pamphlets should be published. I also feel the need for issuing a small handbook consisting of the important clauses and how they will be administered, so that people will be able to know exactly what this legislation is. The handbook should be in very simple language.

I will now come to the question of new ventures. I have heard what the hon. Finance Minister had to say on this point when this question was raised. I would like to quote his own words, particularly when he mentioned that a number of concessions had been given to the private sector. These are his words:

> "Indeed, the charge against the Finance Minister from certain sections of the House is that already too many concessions have been granted and that they have not been attended with any satisfactory response."

Then, he goes on further to say:

> "...it seems to me proper not to import into the measure, which is intended to be permanent, something which has a topical interest, something that will promote industrial activities for the time being. Maybe, circum-

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> stances might change and one might be sorry that one has promoted excessive industrial expansion to the prejudice of the public sector."

I do not know whether in view of the Five Year Plan and its objectives and the policy of the Government he considers that the industrial expansion in this country will be such as to prejudice the public sector. The public sector today actually dominates, and the private sector is being pushed aside all the time. If that is the policy of the Government they must say very frankly whether the private sector is required to do its duty or not. The Finance Minister's statement which I have quoted is completely contrary to the Planning Commission's objectives. I do not wish to quote from the Five Year Plan, but I know that it is so, and I know that he will also remember that under the Plan a certain amount of responsibility has been thrown upon the private sector and the private sector has to play its part. Giving special treatment to industries is left entirely to the Finance Minister and the powers are given to the Finance Minister or the Central Government to take whatever measures they think proper. But, to completely sidetrack and say there is no necessity at all for assistance to the private sector......

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Additional assistance.

Shri Tulsidas:......is, I feel, a bit too harsh on the private sector.

Then, I do not understand when he said that "it seems to me proper not to import into the measure which is intended to be permanent". The Income-tax Act is also a permanent Act, and he has introduced in that Act certain provisions which give a special treatment to the private sector. Then I cannot understand his remark that "they have not been attended with any satisfactory response". I do not know why the Finance Minister found it necessary to mention this, because he knows very well that the private sector can only function provided favourable conditions are created in which it can function. A certain amount of special treatment given under the Income-tax Act does not mean that the private sector has got the conditions so as to function in a proper way. But, I am sure the Finance Minister will agree with me that in spite of that the private sector has come up to a certain standard and has reached the production targets laid down in the Five Year Plan. For example, the textile industry has come up to the target according to the Plan. With regard to sugar, the same is the case. With regard to other industries, as far as possible they have been able to achieve the targets of production laid down in the Plan. So, I do not know why he feels that the concessions have not been attended with a satisfactory response. If he means to say that new ventures in a big way have not come forward in this country, then I would say that he himself knows very well the availability of capital resources, and that it is not possible for the private sector to come forward with new ventures in a big way unless they get the resources available in the country. Even if one wants to float a company, it is not possible today to get the capital for it. It is, therefore, more than necessary that Government should continue to give special treatment to the new ventures, as long as present conditions continue.

Therefore, I would request him to look at it from this point of view, not merely from the point of view that the new ventures have not come forward according to what he expected. In spite of all this, Sir, some of the industrial targets have been reached and, therefore, it would be rather harsh to say that the private sector is not responding.

Even recently the Commerce Minister when replying to the debate in the Council of States on unemployment...

Shri C. Bhatt (Broach): Sir, the hon. member is again going into a discussion on the private sector and the public sector and the Planning Commission.

Shri Tulsidas: I was making a reference to new ventures. I am sorry my hon. friend is not understanding what I am saying.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I only say this much. Every point has been raised and sought to be supported during the consideration stage—how it will affect the formation of capital, unless there is a particular exemption limit the man may not be able to have new business and so on. All these matters were discussed at length both in the consideration and the clause by clause stages. Now generally this must be an occasion for exchanging bouquets, and as to what ought to be done and what ought not to be done, how it has to be worked etc. These are all the matters relevant now. I need not detail as to what ought to be done at this stage. Ordinarily, more than ten minutes ought not to be taken at this stage.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: There must be an opportunity for answering the 'obiter dicta' of the Finance Minister. That is what he is doing.

Shri C. Bhatt: An opportunity must also be given to those who have not spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They should have intervened earlier. There are hon. members who tabled so many amendments and at every stage sought every opportunity. I cannot ignore them and give an opportunity to those people who merely come and bless the House. I would consider their claims only late—after all the others are allowed.

Shri Tulsidas: I only wanted to make certain observations in regard to the remarks of the Hon. the Finance Minister in the consideration stage. As you know, Sir, I had put in a number of amendments which, as I said, in the very beginning, the Finance Minister has been pleased to accept. There were certain amendments which I felt were necessary from a particular point of view and I would like to tell the Finance Minister what I think about them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. What has been said during the clause by clause stage should not be repeated now. Once again he need not reinforce them and request the hon. the Finance Minister.

Shri Tulsidas: All right, Sir. If you so wish, I will not go further into the matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Enough has been said—not a question of my wish.

Shri Tulsidas: I have mentioned just now with regard to the question of new ventures. I would only like to make a reference to the speech of the Commerce Minister in reply to the debate on unemployment. He has himself mentioned that more investments are necessary in the private sector. That is all I want to say.

With regard to the other questions, on a number of clauses certain amendments were discussed and we had made observations. I do not wish to go further into them. But I do wish to reiterate once again what I have already said that when administering this Act, I would like the Finance Minister to please bear in mind that this is a new piece of legislation, the people must understand this legislation and it must be explained to them in a much more simple language and simple manner so that they would be able to know what this legislation is.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): We have wholeheartedly and, to some extent, enthusiastically, participated in the different stages of this Bill and now we have reached the final stage. I think, Sir, it is my duty to congratulate the Finance Minister. Sir, of course, it is a very rare fortune of this side to congratulate, particularly the Finance Minister. But on this particular occasion, I have great pleasure in congratulating him.

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The Estate Duty Bill was never a matter which was very much appreciated or liked by Government and the vested interests in the country and their representatives in the party in power were fully at the tail of the coat of the Finance Minister asking him not to go ahead. As a matter of fact, it is a great event that this particular measure will now be placed on the Statute Book. Of course, I may frankly state, Sir, that as far as the rates are concerned or the exemption limit is concerned, there is a lot of dissatisfaction on this side. If I can quote the instance of England, the maximum rate is 80 per cent. But as a matter of fact, we ought to be modest—very reasonable—in our expectations about the Government. But the economics of the situation, the actual facts, the very fact that Government will be wanting more and more money will be there constantly pressing the Finance Minister to come before this House with a measure which will raise the taxes. I know that the Finance Minister will be forced—whether he likes it or not—to come before this House with another measure —another Finance Bill or something of that sort as they do in England—by which the limit of exemption will be brought down and rates of levy taken up.

Then there is another factor, Sir, on which I must harp. There is a lot of discrimination, I say between a Mitakshara assessee and the non-Mitakshara assessee. But I would say that the discrimination is due to the inherent discrimination prevalent in the different personal laws. As a matter of fact, if I have to give my own personal opinion on this matter, Sir, it is that if instead of raising the exemption limit from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 he had reduced the rate—there was a reduction in the rates as far as these limits were concerned for Dayabhaga or non-Mitakshara famillis—it would have met the situation and, to some extent, wiped out the disparity. But somehow or other, Sir, one impression that I have formed in this matter during the discussion is that there was a sort of 'C.D' alliance. By 'C' I mean Chatterjee and by 'D' I mean Deshmukh. Both of them were profusely exchanging compliments. Mr. C.D. Deshmukh used to say: 'Well, Mr. Chatterjee was modest in his suggestion' and Mr. Chatterjee used to say: 'Well, Mr. Deshmukh.......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For this alliance no new alliance is necessary. It is already there.

Shri S. S. More: My submission, Sir, is that the Finance Minister all along was most sensitive in responding favourably to the voice not of reason but of reaction and the reason is...

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): One amendment of yours he has accepted.

Shri S. S. More: In a fit of temporary progressiveness, I may say he was pleased to accept one of my amendments, but subsequently he has changed and the fit has disappeared. Therefore, my submission is that I can understand his difficulties, when there is no statute like this on the Statute book of this country, he was reluctant to displease a large number of persons and bringing the hornets' nest about his ears. He has practised what we Maharashtrians call *Ganimi Kava* (गनिमी कावा) *i.e.*, strategic diplomatic withdrawal. The moment the statute is placed on record, possibly he will try to get his teeth into the vested interest and once he gets a bite, he will take a large chunk of the assessees. I am sure about it. I know the Maharashtrian's mind and I also know the mind of Mr. Deshmukh. So the estate-wallas who are so very profuse in offering bouquets to Mr. Deshmukh...

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Vishakhapatnam): One Tartar to another.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has to be 'Indian mind'.

Shri S. S. More: I seriously doubt that proposition, because it is our speciality and I am not prepared to share it with anybody else. So my submission is, Sir, that as far as the administration of this particular measure is concerned, the Finance Minister will have to be very cautious.

I now come to the establishment side. A statement has been circulated to us showing the cost of the headquarters organisation and other statistical data. Sir, the Congress has all along been vociferously pleading that the salaries of the high-paid officers ought to be brought down. There is a large gulf between the highest paid officer and the lowest paid officer.

Now, that gulf is being perpetuated. For instance, Sir, in this paper which has been circulated to us, the Headquarters General Secretary will be getting Rs. 36,000 per year. Then the Deputy Secretary will be getting Rs. 18,000 per year; then 2 Under-secretaries will be getting Rs. 21,000 per year together. So, 4 officers between themselves will be getting Rs. 75,000 and it will be something like Rs. 18,750 per annum per capita.

Now, look to the other officers. As far as the Headquarters is concerned, there will be 23 other officers and their total annual salary will be something like Rs. 52,000 and the per capita average will be some thing like Rs. 2,261. Take for instance class IV staff. They will be 8 and their total salary bill for the whole year will be Rs. 7,000. My submission is, as far as those who are already in employment are concerned, you need not cut down their salaries; you may be very generous to them because some guarantees have been given to them under the Constitution, and our Ministry is largely dependent on the bureaucracy and it cannot afford to displease members of the bureaucracy. When we are trying to open new avenues of employment, Government can apply the knife of retrenchment and economy in this particular matter and say we are starting on a clean slate. The officers that we shall entertain for this business shall not get beyond this particular limit. Particularly, Sir, when the Ministers are getting only about Rs. 2,200 per month, why the officers employed should get Rs. 3,000 per month? My submission is that I do not expect, as many Members have predicted, a bumper crop as far as the estate duty is concerned because the rich people will do their best with the aid of the legal fraternity to evade this tax. There is a Latin proverb, that a rich man is a villain or an heir to a villain. I am not prepared to subscribe *in toto* to the opinion expressed in that Latin proverb but I would rather say that these rich men, in order to preserve their property, in order to see that Government is not able to take a large slice from their property will do their best to evade it. They will move not only heaven but hell too in order to ward off the tax officer. Therefore, Sir, if the yield is not going to be much, what is going to be the percentage of the cost of administration. The yield will be small and the cost of administration, particularly on this generous pattern, will be going up with the result that the State treasuries will not be large gainers. I would therefore seriously request the Finance Minister to see that the scales he has prescribed for all these officers—I need not go into the details but I would rather say that he should do his best—are brought down within the paying competence of the poor country, as we say.

Then, there is another point. The income-tax department has not been functioning very happily and, as one of the Congress Members pointed out, nobody can afford to displease an income-tax officer. If he goes to the club everybody plays bridge in such a manner that the eventual victory goes to the income-tax officer. Why? Much power is vested in his hands. But still larger powers will be vested in the hands of the Controller and the Board and, particularly, the Controller has been given tremendous powers. If they are

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out for mischief, if they are out for corruption, if they are out for lining their own pockets, they have immense, unrestricted and limitless powers and it will be very difficult for the Government to weed out corruption in this new field which we are opening by the passing of this measure. So, he will have to take particular care to fight corruption.

One of the most important ways of evasion by the rich will not be the concealment of property but securing under-valuation of the property at the hands of the valuers, at the hands of the Controlling officers and such other agencies as will be in charge of valuing the property; if their property is under-valued, it will be brought within the exemption limit. If the property is so large that it cannot, even by under-valuation, be brought within the exemption limit, then they will say that the property does not go beyond a certain limit or the lower slab of the rates.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why is the hon. Member assiduously pointing out the various ways in which evasion can be made so that they may be copied?

Shri S. S. More: I do not claim originality, as a matter of fact, for all these. They are already being practised on a very large scale. I am only mentioning these facts to make the Finance Minister very cautious and very careful in his future steps. This is the only thing that I wanted to say.

I must also thank Kaka Gadgil on this occasion. Mr. Deshmukh is functioning as the mother of this child but Kaka Gadgil has functioned as the wet nurse. Therefore he also deserves our compliments for that.

Shri Gadgil: Thank you for the compliment.

Shri S. S. More: Otherwise, Sir, I am quite sure Mr. Deshmukh was prone to listen to the soft persuasive voice of Mr. N. C. Chatterjee. Mr. Chatterjee and many members from the Congress side were espousing the cause of the rich and I share the feelings of Mr. Gadgil when he talked about the poor. It is the poor people who are carrying on the burden and that burden has to be lightened. More comfort and more happiness has to be brought to them. You cannot do that unless you tax the rich to the full capacity. As a matter of fact, if you spare your knife in the case of the rich, the result is that the axe of acute misery will fall on the poor and if the axe goes on falling on the poor they may rise in a rebellion. The Finance Minister was pleased to say that for many generations to come there may not be financial equality. If the progress of equalisation is sought to be delayed indefinitely then the uprising of the people will not wait on the sweet pleasure of the Finance Minister. The growing unemployment and misery in the country are a sort of warning given to him. This is the writing on the wall which he must know. He is versed in so many lores but let him spare some time to read what is written on the wall of this country. Revolution is the word that is written on the wall of this country.

Shri Gadgil: Sir, on a point of personal explanation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is he answering the remarks 'wet nurse'?

Shri Gadgil: I was away when Mr. Chatterjee said that he would be going to heaven when Mr. Gadgil would not be there. I would only say that I have done so much with regard to this Bill that I am qualified for *moksha*.

Shri K. K. Basu: In the third reading of the Bill as yet only congratulations have been showered on the Minister. I wish I could have joined in the chorus. But when I analyse his attitude and the underlying principle of the Bill and the situation outside, I cannot join in that chorus. We have seen in this country that unemployment is growing in spite of increased production. We also know hunger stalking in the country when the Government claim that food production has increased and there is no necessity of any further import. Sir, I would have congratulated the hon. Finance Minister if I could see from his attitude and the Bill as it has emerged in its final shape that the main underlying principle is the levelling down of the disparity of wealth and getting revenue from those who are in a position to bear the burden for the interest of the community at large and for the development of national wealth. I feel that when the Constitution has given to the people equality and social justice, every legislation should be so tuned that its ultimate objective should be greater service and greater benefit to the community. Therefore, Sir, what should have been our attitude in this socio-economic legislation. It should be to do away with the vested interests that have ruled the roost in our country for years.

In this connection, with your permission, may I quote an expression, which possibly has been often quoted before, of the present Prime Minister who was then the leader of the people. He says:

> "If an indigenous government took the place of the foreign government and kept all vested interests intact, this would not even be the shadow of freedom."

I do not know to what extent we have still the shadow and whether the real light has dawned on this country.

When the Bill was being discussed at the initial stage, the Finance Minister tried to say that it would usher in an egalitarian society. Yesterday he however said that that society has yet to come for years where there should be no necessity for the estate duty.

In our country there are two most important vested interests (1) the feudal lords and (2) the foreign interests. You know very well that as early as 1930 Mr. Latten who was connected with the Indian Statutory Commission had said that India is a country of poverty but along with it there are persons with whom there are large accumulations of wealth. We see in our country the hungry and unclothed people moving about. On the other hand we see the feudal princes having crores of rupees, owning Rolls Royce cars and luxurious mansions worth lakhs of rupees. Therefore, we have to analyse to what extent this particular legislation is making an honest effort to do away with this vested interest.

In calculating the tax structure—the slabs that we have accepted—it could be seen that even the persons owning property worth a crore of rupees would hardly have to pay Rs. 33,00,000 at the rate of 33 per cent. You know fully well, in our country it is a peculiar characteristic of our economy that this large percentage of hoarded wealth is never utilised for productive purposes. This enormous wealth that they have accumulated is lost to the community for years to come. Even the person connected with J. K. Industries has built up houses costing more than a crore of rupees and that sum is not utilised for the development of industries and for increasing the national wealth. Therefore, we feel that in putting forward the slab the Finance Minister has not taken into consideration this class of property owners and has not tried to get into the common pool for the services of the community the large sums of money that had been lying idle for generations. Unfortunately the Finance Minister, I do not say under pressure, has tried to be rather soft and lenient to them.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): He has been dragged into that conclusion.

Shri K. K. Basu: My learned friend from behind says that he has been dragged into that conclusion. We wish that the people whose savings go into the productive capital had been given more concessions. Certain types of industries or certain types of units which have a progressive role in the particular economy of our country might have been given concessions But we know the Bill as it will emerge in the fina

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shape would give large concessions to feudal lords that have amassed unprecedented and monstrous wealth.

Then, Sir, the position is further accentuated by the Finance Minister by modifying some provisions in the Select Committee and then sticking to them. So far as the clause on Quick Succession is concerned, in Great Britain this is only restricted to land and business. In the original Bill it was restricted to the land and business. Now it has been extended to all types of property including hoarded unproductive wealth. Conscious effort and deliberate attempt must be made by the Government if they mean seriously to increase the national wealth of our country to tap such hoarded wealth. Now, all the accumulations are utilised in such investments or in such wealth which are completely unproductive.

In our country we have persons such as big landlords and industrialists having luxury things such as golden utensils. I know of a person who during the war, on his own admission, amassed more than forty lakhs of rupees. He has got the photo frames of his ancestors made of gold possibly to avoid the clutches of the Government. Therefore, I feel we should have a positive attitude to tax these people as far as possible and see that their money is utilised for development of our nation.

Sir, then I would like to come to the other category—foreign interests. During the discussion on the slabs we tried to move amendments but unfortunately as the Constitution stands we were debarred from moving as the President's recommendation was not obtained on the advice of the Finance Minister. I would give you the example of a concern which has its entire assets in India, for instance, the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. The company is incorporated in England. Its Indian shareholders having shares worth five lakhs of rupees would have to pay Rs. 52,000/- or more as duty whereas the British shareholders possibly will have to pay Rs. 37,000/- as duty on similar shares. Though the entire profit has been earned within the taxable territory but unfortunately under the law as has been framed and the schedule as has been accepted in part 3 of the Second Schedule we cannot touch them.

We wish that the Finance Minister in his effort to get more money is not guided by ulterior considerations. The first mover who initiated this Bill in 1946 was guided by the exigencies of getting more revenue. We wish that the Finance Minister should be guided by the idea of doing away with the vested interests and utilising the money for the improvement of the national wealth.

In this connection I would like to go further and say that I wonder if the Finance Minister's attitude about the foreign interests is rather soft. Yesterday we have seen a report in the press about the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India who said that he would welcome more of foreign capital. He said that there should be no limitation on the transfer of dividends or the repatriation of the capital that the foreign investors may like to do.

In this connection, I should like to touch upon another aspect of our relationship with those foreigners who own large interests in the States. I wish the Finance Minister to be more attentive to me. I am discussing the foreign interests and he is conveniently trying to be indifferent. Then there is another aspect about Clause 20 where we have put a certain sub-clause about taxation of foreign interests. The Finance Minister said that it might have helped us to get a double taxation relief. In this connection, I am constrained to say that our attitude, especially with regard to the taxing department, has been to surrender to the U.K. so far as double taxation is concerned. I have got a copy of the circular, issued by our Income-tax Department, regarding double taxation relief. Sir, this is circular No. 898 of 1953, quoting Circular No. 13(L—1) of 1953 of the Central Board of Revenue. It says—I think it is very important, because it states the facts so far as the double taxation relief is concerned under the income-tax system—as follows:

> "The Board has been issuing instructions from time to time that pending conclusion of an agreement for avoidance of double taxation with the Government of United Kingdom, the recovery of so much of the tax, for the assessment years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52, as pertained to the income accruing or arising in the United Kingdom should be held in abeyance. The latest of these instructions issued on the 26th February 1953 provided for abeyance till the 30th June 1953. Negotiations with the United Kingdom Government have not been completed so far. It has, however, been decided that no further postponement of collection need be given in respect of these earlier assets and that after the 30th June 1953 recovery should be effected after giving relief as follows:—
>
> (a) in respect of the assessment years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52, unilateral relief of 50 per cent. under Section 490 as it stood before its recent amendment;
>
> (b) in respect of the assessment year 1952-53 unilateral relief of 100 per cent. admissible under Section 49D as amended."

Sir, within these past three or four years, we have had so many visits to Commonwealth Conferences, and our financial experts, including the Finance Minister himself, had consulted the United Kingdom and must have discussed this question there. We feel, Sir, even in the United Kingdom, even today, they are not willing to discuss this aspect of the question. They are not willing to give any concession which the international convention or the international law provides; whereas we are so generous to these foreigners and their earnings.

Then, the Finance Minister has tried to discuss that yesterday; he said he expected to get more money from the middle class people, persons owning property of Rs. 5 lakhs or thereabouts. He does not expect to get more tax from persons owning property worth 40, 50 or 60 lakhs of rupees or even crores of rupees. He says, as soon as the legislation comes into being, there will be gifts, trusts and settlements. Britain has had these taxes for years and also many other countries who were advanced economically have this tax for years. And today, in 1953, we are going to enact a legislation on this subject and we do not gain by the experience of 75 years working in Britain. Britain has increased the period of getting exemption, so far as the gifts or trusts are concerned, from two years to five years. Today, we say it is a new thing in our country, and we want to stick to two years. The very idea of having an estate duty was actually put in the shape of the Bill as early as 1946, and the persons who are in possession of wealth, with all their powers at their command to evade taxation, with all these loopholes—had notice of it so long back. We expected the Finance Minister that he should have acted in a manner where a taxation evasion should have been avoided, and if necessary, as we have in the United States, we might have a gift duty. It is as high as 52 per cent. in the form of gifts. In this connection. I would like to point out one aspect The Finance Minister said that the administrative difficulty is there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will call one more Member.

Shri K. K. Basu: Sir. I will finish. Talking about this administrative difficulty, what I say is, the aim should be making the tax structure more steeply progressive. I am told—I have read in the book of Kaka Saheb—that in 1948, the Economist whose advice was sought suggested that it should be pro-

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gressively steep so far as the highest slab is concerned. But unfortunately that Economist's advice has not been accepted. The Finance Minister says there is administrative difficulty. What is the stumbling block against administrative difficulty? He says we are going to have the new legislation and the administrative set up may not cope with the problem that will come. We have officers many of whom have been in the income-tax department and at least they must have the basic, fundamental understanding of these fiscal laws, and all the laws that are necessary for the administration of this Act. You know that at least in the last one and a half years of my experience in Parliament, I have been hearing the plea for sending our men abroad to learn things. Why don't we send suitable persons who have a fundamental idea of these laws to England or America and Australia or to New Zealand—to study thoroughly the working of this particular legislation and gain experience, so that their experience may be utilized for the better and smooth running of this Act in our country? If the Finance Minister wills it, he would do it. Even on such matters as basic education, adult illiteracy, etc., we have got experts. So, he might very well send an expert to study the problem.

Another aspect about which I want to speak a little is the limitation period. I wish the Finance Minister would accept our amendment on that point. You know the normal law of limitation is 60 years for the State to file a suit. Here, the Finance Minister made it as 12 years. As you know very well, there may be methods by which—a Government representation is not compulsory for our country—people may not be caught within twelve years, and thus they will escape the clutches of this legislation.

I do not wish to go into details about the other things which have not been accepted. I only wish that the Finance Minister should see that the Central Board of Revenue should behave in a manner that is proper and just in the marginal cases, especially those of the middle class people. The middle class people should not be caught unnecessarily in the clutches of this and they should not be put into any hardship which has unfortunately been the experience of many under the Income-tax Department. Even under the limits of the slab,—I do say it is such a low rate of taxation—whatever money is collected, the Finance Minister should see that that money is properly utilized in such investments as could enrich the national wealth of the country.

Lastly, Sir, as everybody has said something about the Finance Minister, I would like to say one qualified word individually about him. Like other Finance Ministers who initiated the Bill and withdrew—he did not have the same misfortune. In this case, he faltered—I would even say he stumbled but did not fall and at long last he reached his journey's end limping on the crutches.

Prof. Agarwal (Wardha): We are at last at the end of our labours in connection with this difficult and rather complicated Bill. I must take this opportunity of warmly congratulating the Finance Minister on the will and determination that he showed in piloting this Bill to a successful conclusion. Apart from the economic benefits that will accrue out of this Bill, I think this measure has a good social and psychological value also. We have talked so much on death in this House that the fear of death seems to have evaporated from our minds. After all, death has to be regarded as a friend and not as a foe, because, I remember the story of the Greek youth who wanted to live for ever but it made that Greek youth repentant for life, because that life did not end. Ultimately the essence of life consists in the limited existence that we have on this earth, and therefore, this measure, instead of being a matter for sorrow and regret, ought to be a matter for gratification. There is one thing that I wish to say to all those who will be affected by this measure; at least the rich will have a stronger will to live. I tell all my monied friends that they should not curse the Finance Minister, but thank him, because he has created a desire on their part to live longer. We do want these friends to live, to live for the good of the society and not for its exploitation.

It is not for me to enter into arguments on minor points, but I would once again remind the House that this measure after all is not so revolutionary as it is taken to be. After all these death duties or inheritance taxes have been in existence in almost all the countries of the world, and India has been almost a solitary exception. Therefore, we are not enacting this Bill a day earlier: in fact, it should have come much earlier and we should all be happy that this new social and economic measure is ultimately coming to a successful conclusion.

We all hold that political freedom without social and economic freedom would be almost futile and meaningless and, therefore, we accept the basic principles of this Bill and we hold that the time has come when the pace for social and economic measures must be quickened. It is not for us or anybody to try to delay such measures. In fact, this measure should only be a beginning of many more measures to come. I am also happy that the Finance Minister has introduced already in this House the Companies Amendment Bill. That also, I hope, will pass through during the next session or after that and that also will give us a lot of reforms which will ultimately pave the way for economic equality.

A number of points were raised about exemption limit. Since my name was also quoted, I understand, last evening, I may say this that the raising of the exemption limit to one lakh in the case of Dayabhaga families should not be regarded as a concession to the rich. From whatever I have been able to study and understand as a Member of the Select Committee I feel that it is quite fair and there has been no discrimination. If the law differs in different parts of the country and if we felt that there was some unfairness in it to those friends who live in the Eastern parts of the country, I think it has only been fair that we have raised the limit and it is a concession to the middle class and not to the rich.

Many hon. members raised a number of points regarding further exemptions for houses, for more of insurance and for gifts. It was also argued that after all people have to maintain a standard of living, that they have to maintain a dignity in life. I would say this that too many exemptions have already been granted and we should not try to ask for more. After all what dignity and what fairness in society can there be; so long as we have this yawning gulf between the rich and the poor, so long as we are not able to level down the rich and level up the poor in this country, so long as we are not able to achieve economic equality which is the essence of democracy and the essence of political freedom, it is futile to talk of decency in life and decencies in standards of life. I hope, therefore, that all of us will read the signs of the times and will try to create an atmosphere which will bring in a bloodless revolution, of economic equality, without trying to invite violence and blood in its train.

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After all the per capita income of this country is only about Rs. 255 and in such a poor country an exemption of Rs. 1 lakh is more than moderate. To ask for more concessions will not be fair to the teeming millions whom we desire to serve. As regards the rates, I am surprised, Sir, to read in the papers that various Chambers of Commerce still go on passing various resolutions saying that the rates are too high. I think the rates are quite moderate, if not low. I had expected personally that the rates will be as high as 50 per cent at least, if not more. Therefore, for anybody—and especially the rich—to say that the rates are high is not taking this measure with grace

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as they should. I would, therefore, appeal to all the rich people in this country to regard this Bill as their friend and not curse it, because the Government is doing good to this country and to the rich by trying to achieve social and economic equality through peace and through democracy, through constitutional methods. The time has come when we must do away with economic inequalities, glaring economic inequalities without further delay. It is true that there are some risks involved in moving fast, but the risks of not moving fast is all the greater and if we really want to stabilise democracy in this country, if we really want to achieve social and economic revolution through democratic methods, such measures ought to be more, and we should all help Government wholeheartedly.

A word about government servants, who will be entrusted with the administration of this measure. I fully agree with those who say that they must maintain a very high standard of integrity and efficiency, because in spite of all the good that this measure may do, if it is not properly administered it might lead to a number of ills. Although we all stand for economic equality, I would be the last person to support any kind of harassment. There must be a human touch. The officers must not in any way try to harass anybody, however rich he may be and if we deal with this in a human way I am sure there is a good chance for the administration also to live up to our expectations and to show that they also can rise to the occasion. I would, therefore, again appeal for the creation of an atmosphere of good will, an atmosphere of cooperation, an atmosphere which will promote economic equality and economic revolution and not create further bitterness.

This Bill I regard as an appeal, a challenge and a warning. It is an appeal to the rich to abdicate their riches voluntarily with good grace. It is warning to all of us that if we do not move fast enough, if we do not try to bridge this gulf between the rich and the poor we might lose the opportunity, the golden opportunity that is still in our hands.

I thank you, Sir, and I hope that this measure will now go through the Upper House soon and will create a good atmosphere in the country, a constructive and cooperative atmosphere.

✓ **The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

✓ *The motion was adopted.*

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is with a sense of anti-climax, but nevertheless with the consciousness of hard work done and a long and difficult trail trodden, howsoever falteringly, that I come to the concluding stage of the debate. Till last evening, Sir, the House had spent ninety-one hours on the various stages of discussion of this Bill and to this we shall have to add an hour and a half this morning. This is without taking into account the time spent on twenty-one meetings of the Select Committee, the informal discussions that the members interested in the Bill had on four occasions with me or my colleague and the various private discussions among members, or groups of members interested in particular items.

✓ **Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How many days were spent in the Select Committee?

✓ **Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Twenty-one meetings, Sir.

The Bill as it was presented to the House contained 74 clauses; now it contains 85.

Now it contains 85 clauses and it has since been expanded by about 50%. ✓ The total number of amendments of which notice was given was 756, out of which 387 were actually moved. The number of amendments accepted is 52. Out of this figure, amendments which make substantive changes in the Bill are only 32 and this includes 17 amendments which are in the nature of concessions. Of the remaining amendments, 10 relate to drafting, 7 are consequential and 3 to correct printing mistakes. I give these statistics because I noticed the criticism somewhere that those who were responsible for the drafting of the original Bill had not been very careful. I quite realise, Sir, that had we had more time at our disposal, it might have been possible for us perhaps to make some of the clauses at least simpler. The hon. Member who drew my attention to the New Zealand Act on the subject—"Law of Death and Gift Duties"—might perhaps see Section 5(3) and Section 16(3). Each of the clauses runs to about 12 or 14 lines and I should like him to tell me privately afterwards whether he is fully able to follow these clauses. I only refer to this—I don't read them out—with a view to showing that no matter how much you try, it is not possible to word a measure like this in monosyllables or simple language which will be understood by the layman.

Now, turning to the statistics that I gave, I say that these figures are eloquent testimony to the interest taken by all sections of the House in this Bill and the energy, effort and consideration that they have bestowed on it. Apart from merely increasing the size of the Bill, they have contributed to various alterations and deletions, all leading to its improvement. We are aware, Sir, that for 8 days the House representing all parties sat both in the morning and in the afternoon to have this legislation through. From this I conclude that this is a clear proof of the genuine desire of the people of this country to put such a measure on the statute book. The clause scrutiny which the Bill has undergone and the various tests to which it had been put during the several stages will, I hope, ensure, to the extent to which forethought can in taxation matters, that there are no serious loopholes in it and that it will be able to stand fairly reasonably in due course such examination as it is bound to be subjected to in the course of its operation. I must mention, Sir, in particular that the debate on the Bill has been throughout on a very high level and I am grateful to all sections of the House for the patience, courtesy and genuine co-operation which they have extended to Government during this debate despite a very wide divergence in their points of view and despite a few very controversial issues. In particular, Sir, there has been, to my mind, a complete absence of obstructive tactics. I also thank all the hon. Members, who have made their contribution to this particular stage of the debate, for their kind references to me—some of them qualified. I feel no sense of elation at this stage, but only a heavier sense of responsibility as if my work is about to begin. I feel also a certain amount of satisfaction that at long last Government has been able to carry out an assurance which it has given to the House from time to time in regard to this measure.

Now, although we have tried to make our law as perfect as possible, none of us is under the illusion that the law now enacted will remain unchanged for all time to come. It is characteristic of all tax laws, including our own, that they keep on changing, not necessarily that the laws are imperfect but because the financial and economic considerations keep on changing and also because unfortunately, as I pointed out the other day, tax evaders develop new methods of dodging their liability. For the Income Tax Act of our country, we have had a revision in 1922, another in 1939 and since then hardly a year has passed when we have not made changes in some provisions or other, and a comprehensive Bill to amend the Income Tax Act is almost now overdue. In the Estate Duty Act of the U.K., which is really part of the Finance Act, numerous changes have taken place since the duty was first imposed in 1894. I mention this because some hon. Members have ex-

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

pressed doubt about the wisdom of some of the provisions we have made, in particular regarding the Board being the appellate authority, the exemption limits for charities, the provision made for recovery of tax as arrears of land revenue, the period allowed for gifts and settlements, and so on and so forth. I should like to tell them that if in their judgement the provisions made are wrong, there will be plenty of opportunities hereafter to reconsider matters both in substance and in procedure, and in the particular matter of the Appellate Tribunal, the House has already my assurance that if we find from experience that the system adopted in the Bill is not working satisfactorily Government will not hesitate to come forward with a suitable amendment.

On many occasions during the debate, hon. Members have referred to the errors of omission or commission of the present Income Tax administration and of the possibility of the same errors being repeated in the Estate Duty administration. They have, in particular, referred to the wide powers of discretion which are vested in the Controller by this Bill. Now, there can be no two opinions that an efficient and honest administration is the pre-requisite for the successful administration of any tax law, indeed any law. I should, however, like to point out to the House that the whole object of this law is to enable Government to collect the duty due from certain persons in respect of property passing on death. Obviously some agency of Government must be empowered to determine and actually to collect it. So, while I entirely agree that this agency should not be clothed with arbitrary powers, I hope no one will disagree that this agency cannot perform its functions if at every stage and on every matter it has to make a reference to the higher authorities or be subject to the scrutiny of Courts.

Equally, Sir, I realise that the administration owes it to the public that there is no undue hardship or harassment and that it must not fail to show the human touch, to which reference was made by Shri Agarwal, especially in the face of grief and mourning. This is, and will remain, our constant objective.

Reference was made by one hon. Member to technical refresher course for the administration. The House will be interested to know that we are now sending a team of six selected persons to U.K. to study the actual methods of administration. (*An hon. Member*: Enjoy!) (*Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy*: No training here?) I can't hear it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not hear it.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Now, one hon. Member suggested that we should issue an explanatory pamphlet for the lay men. I have already given an assurance that that will be done, in as simple a language as we can command.

I am bothered by this oft-repeated apprehension about the quality of administration. And it is, I must confess, my own personal ambition to bring about a sense of good-will and co-operation between the tax administration and the potential assessees and to make the administration fully responsive to any criticisms of their administration as well as, of course, as I said, to specific suggestions made for improvement of their rules and regulations.

Now, I do not propose to say anything in regard to the detailed provisions to which reference was made by certain hon. Members, because, as you pointed out, they have been fully discussed. These matters will remain at the back of our mind, and if actual experience seems to indicate that we have made a mistake then one can recall the suggestions that have been made here today and review the whole question.

Our object in introducing this Bill was two-fold: one, to rectify to some extent the existing inequality in the distribution of wealth, and the other. to assist the States to finance their development schemes. In passing this Bill finally I have no doubt that all sections of the House will join with me in the hope that by successful administration of this measure we shall achieve our objects to some extent. In the context of our needs, the addition to our resources that this measure will achieve will not perhaps be significant. And that is not for the reason that was advanced by Shri Sarangadhar Das, that 40 or 45 per cent. of our present expenditure is merely a drain. I, emphatically disagree with this view and with a full sense of responsibility I say that, by and large, public expenditure in this country is not infructuous, although I am aware of many instances, where there is wastefulness and so on, which we are trying to cope with all the time.

Then, as regards the socio-economic consequences, I expect that in the long run they will be more important than the financial results. Conspicuous luxury which is the concomitant of inequalities of wealth will, I expect, diminish or be discouraged as a result of this measure. I have already met important business men who have assured me that they regard the imposition of estate duty as entirely right and who consider that excessive wealth should not be left to their children so as to kill all incentive to work, in them.

Shri K. K. Basu: So many wealthy people will go to heaven!

Shri S. S. More: It will be overcrowded!

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have ceased to try to guess the ultimate destination!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Leave it to others.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Yes. Others are more competent to deal with this matter.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Anyhow, hell is there for some!

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do agree with Mr. Chatterjee that this will lead to the break-up of large estates. But I am not alarmed at that. That is the consummation devoutly to be wished. And I do not expect capital formation, as we progress, from the wealthy. I expect capital formation, which in its essence is saving, from the common man for the good of the common man. I myself feel—although I know I shall be charged with being soft-hearted and all that—I myself sensed the emergence of a realistic spirit in this matter on the part of the wealthy and the privileged. And if this spirit lives and is fostered, death and death duties will not be a terror; for, fame and renown will remain behind and will, I hope, be immortal in a society consciously supported by the 'haves' for the benefit of the 'have-nots'. As you remember, after all he only lives whose fame lives behind him.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati): Sir, on a point of information. Which will be a greater terror, death or death duty?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I say neither, because I annihilate both death and the fear of death duties.

स जींवति यशो यस्य कीर्तिर्यस्य स जीवति

He lives whose fame and renown lives.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : त्यागाय संवृतार्थानाम्

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That is to say, wealth has to be accumulated only for giving away. That is why *Tyagis* are here! The old commentators defined *Kirti* as.

दानाद्धि प्रभवद्कीर्ति : शौर्याद्धि प्रभवद्यश :

Renown is what springs from gift, donation or generosity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Charity.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: And fame is what springs from courage, fortitude, bravery, heroism and so on. So I hope that generosity and courage will be the watch-word of those on whom fortune has smiled owing to their enterprise. And when that happens, India will have accomplished a major non-violent revolution on the basis of real democracy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is now my pleasure to put the motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

> "That the Bill, as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

ESTATE DUTY RATES BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to fix the rates of estate duty for the purposes of the Estate Duty Act, 1953.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Finance Minister waited until the Schedule was passed. Now, the question is.

> "That leave be granted to the Finance Minister to withdraw the Bill to fix the rates of estate duty for the purposes of the Estate Duty Act, 1953."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1953-54

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up Supplementary Demands.

A number of cut motions have been tabled. I only wish to remind hon. Members about the scope of the discussions at this stage. I find that the cut motions relate to two main subjects: sending of a contingent to Korea and the expenditure on that, and import of sugar. So far as Korea is concerned, we are having a full day for the discussion of foreign affairs and one of the subjects will be mostly related to Korea, sending of contingent, etc. Any how, so much of time is going to be taken and I feel that all the arguments for and against that the hon. Members may desire to make may be reserved for that debate, if the House agrees. That is my suggestion. Regarding sugar, we spent two full hours on the debate a short time ago when the hon. Minister said that two lakh tons are being imported for the purpose of keeping down the prices.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): It is wrong.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It may be wrong. Not that I am shutting out any discussion. I am only trying to remind the hon. Members that we spent a couple of hours only a week or ten days ago over this matter. As regards the nature of the cut motions themselves, hon. Members are aware that with respect to services which were envisaged during the last Budget for which provision is made, and if only excess grants are asked for by way of supplementary demands, they cannot go into the question of policy. They can confine their remarks only to the items of expenditure in excess. With respect to new items of service that have arisen the question of policy can be raised. But, that is only academical so far as this is concerned. As far as I am able to see, there are no such cases.

Some Hon. Members: Sugar was not discussed.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): As far as we are concerned, we are prepared to hold over any discussion on Korea today. But, in regard to sugar, there was a general feeling in the House even when the last two-hour discussion was held that a great deal was left unsaid. I suggest that you let us have as full a discussion on the sugar matter as is possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will find out whether this import was not in the Budget last time.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): Regarding Demand No. 59, it is a new item. That was not discussed.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: There is another matter relating to Information and Broadcasting. It is also rather important.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This general proposition stands. In its application to any particular item, I will consider that. I have not made up my mind with regard to any item. All that I wanted to say is that with respect to such matters which were not considered in the Budget passed last time, they will be new services and it will be open to hon. Members to speak on policy and the amounts asked for.

There are token cuts, reducing the demand by Rs. 100/-, to draw pointed attention to individual grievances. They cannot join all of them; not even two can be coupled together. They will kindly choose or elect to have one or the other. Then, there are economy cuts reducing the demand by a particular amount purely by way of economy. They must be as accurate as possible. Subject to these limitations, I will allow discussion on the cut motions that have been raised. If it is generally agreed that matters relating to Korea—not the demand itself—may be discussed on the day allotted for a debate on foreign affairs, we can take up the other items.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): It is agreed, Sir.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): Time limit, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are starting at 11-30 now. We have got the discussion on the Steel plants from 12:15 to 1:15. We have three-quarters of an hour now. If it is desired that we should have more time, we can sit this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will have a total time of two hours for this. In the afternoon, we will sit for 1¼ hours and finish off.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): This afternoon session has practically become a routine affair, almost every day. It is very difficult.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What can be done? As we are nearing the 18th when we intend to disperse, I think we will have to sit in order to avoid sitting after that date. The earlier we sit, the better.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Why has the 18th been fixed? If the business demands, we should sit after that date. Otherwise, we are over-worked and we cannot apply our minds with the same efficiency.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have heard this question raised several times and hon. Members wanted a definite date to be fixed three or four times. The hon. Leader of the House is also here. So far as I am aware no further extension has been asked for. That is why we have been sitting both in the morning and evening. If it is so desired,—I have made Delhi my home—I am prepared to sit. It is for other hon. Members to decide.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I suggest, Sir, that as several Demands are to be discussed, two hours would be two short a time. We do not mind sitting in the afternoon. I suggest that we have the time extended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Half an hour more.

Some Hon. Members: Three hours.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, three hours from now. I will now place the Demand before the House.

DEMAND NO. 12 —DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ARMY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Sixty Lakhs be

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granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of Defence Services, Effective—Army."

Shri Tyagi: Shall I take it that the Korea cut motions stand down?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They won't be discussed. (*The hon. Minister Shri Tyagi was seen leaving the House.*) The hon. Minister seems to be very anxious to go away early. Order, order: The hon. Minister may sit somewhere. Let it not be understood that we are putting over the Demand. The Demand will be passed now. The discussion will take place later: that is about sending troops to Korea and the expenditure of Rs. 60,00,000.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): As you have stated the point, Sir, if you will permit, I shall make a short statement giving information to the House. But, I do not think there is much room for discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on this point whether the cut motions relating to Korea must be discussed now.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: With all respect, Sir, I do not know whether there is much room for discussion about them.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: There may be certain implications which perhaps would be better discussed in the general discussion on foreign policy. That is why we are prepared to hold over any discussion. We do not want to have any discussion on Korea here and now as far as this Demand is concerned.

Shri S. S. More: What about the cut motions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as Demand No. 12 is concerned that is Defence Services, there are only two cut motions: one standing in the name of Shri Nambiar that the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,00,000 in respect of Defence Services be reduced by Rs. 100.' The point to be discussed is the functions of Custodian Force to Korea. The other relates to the terms and conditions on which the custodian force was sent to Korea.

These are the Cut motions, and if they want to discuss at length even now, these are the points to which they have to make reference.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): I do not move my Cut Motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is all right. What about Mr. T. K. Chaudhuri.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): I am not moving, Sir,.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Generally, the Prime Minister will make a statement on Korea.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is. I believe......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will take it up. I will put Demand No. 12 first. The Demand will be taken up for consideration.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Is it Korea?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Provision made for Korea.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May point out that I believe there is a demand by the External Affairs Ministry also in relation to Korea. That is to say, the non-military personnel that has been sent has been put on the External Affairs side and the Military on the Defence side, but really it is the same thing. The House knows......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not placed before the House. Possibly that can be met from......

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is to be met from savings. That is so. But the fact is that Rs. 3 lakhs has been allotted there.

The House knows the conditions under which this Custodian force has been sent, I mean to say generally. As for their duties, they are distinctly defined by the terms of the Armistice which we have accepted—the Armistice between the two contending parties, *i.e.*, the U.N. Command and the joint Chinese and North Korean Command. It should be remembered that those two Commands came to this Armistice and they were responsible. The United Nations though representing a large number of countries, in a sense represents the U.N. Command, in so far as this Armistice is concerned, and the other countries interested. Therefore, in accepting to go there, we accepted the terms of the Armistice. It is a very detailed term. Now, even now sometimes some difficulties arise as to the interpretation of some terms and they have to be decided by the various Commissions there—the Neutral Nations Commissions, and sometimes they are decided by the other Commissions. So, all I could do, if the House so wants, is to read the details of the Armistice from the Armistice Report.

Now, the other point arises about the expenditure involved in this, and I am afraid I cannot be very precise or definite on that subject. We accepted this responsibility without going into the details of the expenditure. Generally it was indicated to us that this expenditure would obviously not be made to fall entirely or mostly on us, and that others would share—"others" again meaning two Commands—and we are at the present moment, or for some time past have been, in communication with the two Commands and the countries concerned about this sharing of expenditure. The general position that we have taken up is that all the normal expenditure comes to us. For instance, we have sent forces there. All their salaries or the normal expenditure on them will be met by us. We shall continue to meet them. Extraordinary expenditure as transport charges, or special expenditure over and above the normal incurred there should we feel, be shared by others. And, well, generally most countries accept this general position, and we are trying to go into details with them and it will probably take some time. Meanwhile we have to spend all that money. In regard to some special items of expenditure they will anyhow probably fall on us. For instance, we sent our representative who is Chairman of the Neutral Nations Commission. Part of his salary, of course, we pay, but even indirect expenditure in the way of allowance we should like to pay. We do not want him to be under any one else. That is, when our senior people go there, their expenditure will be met by us, even the extra expenditure. But, as for the large staff and the forces, the general principle is that we meet all the normal expenditure on them, their salaries etc., though the other expenditure should come out of some pool. That is the position and it may be that we might have to send perhaps some more troops, possibly if need arises.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I just ask for one clarification? We know that there are differences in the interpretation of the Armistice terms. Of course, we have despatched our troops after accepting the Armistice terms, but we also know that the South Korean Government is also one of the parties to this Armistice. Will the interpretation that they put result in our troops coming into some conflict with the South Korean Government or the South Korean forces? Some light should be thrown on that aspect of the matter.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think I can throw any great light on that. The South Korean Government is one of the constituent parties of the U.N. Command. It is the U.N. Command that we deal with, not the South Korean Government directly at all. We have nothing to do directly with the South Korean Government. The

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U.N. Command has given us certain assurances, guarantees, etc. We have accepted them. Both parties have. Now, if somebody, or some constituent unit does not act up to those assurances, we shall have to meet the situation that arises. It is a hypothetical situation. It is difficult for me to say what will have to be done by us when that situation arises.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I will put the Demand to the vote of the House: The question is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Sixty lakhs be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of Defence Services, Effective—Army."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me take up the other Cut Motions. Demand No. 45.

Shri S. S. More: Forty, I think.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Demand Nos. 45 and 47. Demand No. 38 has been placed before the House only for purposes of discussion. There is no question of voting on it.

Now, Demand No. 45. May I suggest one thing? Under Demand No. 45 I find a number of cut motions. This is the one where provision is made for additional staff for Vanaspati. Demand No. 125 is in respect of "Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture". For the import of sugar, a provision of Rs. 7,25,00,000 is made. The Cut Motions have not been carefully put under the one or the other. Some that have been tabled under Demand No. 45 appear to be more appropriate under Demand No. 125. Anyhow, as they relate to the same subject matter, I shall take up Demand Nos. 45 and 125 together, and let there be discussion.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): Forty-seven also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Relates to what?

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Sugar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well. Demand Nos. 45, 47 and 125 will be taken up together.

DEMAND NO. 45—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The motion is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees one lakh and thirty-six thousand be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 47—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees two crores and ten lakhs be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 125—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees seven crores twenty-five lakhs be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

Now, any Cut Motions that hon. Members want to move or treat as moved?

I will decide whether the Cut Motions are in order or not. Mr. Kelappan, I am afraid his Cut Motion for refusal of supplies is not quite right here, because this is only an additional grant.

An Hon. Member: He is absent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I come to cut motion No. 11—that the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000....be reduced by Rs. 100 (economy in expenditure). Hon. Members will kindly bear in mind that wherever for purposes of any economy in expenditure a cut motion is tabled, it must actually state by what amount they want the reduction. Here it is only Rs. 100—a token cut. Therefore it is out of order.

Then cut motion No. 12 of Mr. Nambiar regarding establishment of sugar factories and quality of vanaspaties. This is out of order. We cannot discuss this question here under Demand No. 45. This is an additional provision made for staff etc. of the Controller as detailed here, for the purpose of checking. Under these circumstances, general policy relating to factories etc. cannot be allowed to be discussed. So 'establishment of sugar factories' goes out and 'quality of vanaspaties' also goes out. (*Interruption by Shri Nambiar*). This is so far as the cut motion is concerned, not that the quality of vanaspaties goes out. Hon. Members may be somewhat new to this procedure. I do not want to take them by surprise, nor should they feel that they have been wronged.

Shri Nambiar: I have to submit with regard to Demand No. 45, Sir, that the quality of vanaspaties is a matter for which the staff are employed. The staff are employed in connection with duties relating to improvement of quality. So if the quality is not improved, then the purpose of granting money for this staff is defeated. So the question does relate to the staff employed for improving and checking the quality. Both these are interlinked. Therefore it is admissible.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The staff employed is to carry out the wishes of the House that there should be a check on adulteration. That is the purpose of the staff.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 'Quality' can be improvement of quality or colouring being introduced. These are all things which are before the House from time to time. Now, the scope of this is very limited. The question is so far as inspection staff is concerned, whether it is necessary or not. We cannot go into the question as to how far it should be improved, what percentage ought to be there and what percentage ought not to be there. If the hon. Member wants to say anything on the Demand itself, he can say what he wants.

Then cut motion No. 13 of Mr. T. K. Chaudhuri—failure of the Government to introduce artificial colourisation of vanaspati—also goes.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I formally protest.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the good of protesting?

Then the cut motion of Mr. N. B. Chowdhury—efficiency of administering control over certain matters relating to the sugar industry—is in order.

Then cut motion No. 15—quality control of vanaspati—is out of order.

Then cut motion No. 16—compensation to sugar factories. It does not arise under Demand No. 45.

Then I come to Mr. Anthony's cut motion—tightening of quality control of Vanaspati; reduction by Rs. 100.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): That is the whole purpose of the additional staff.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To prevent adulteration. The difference between Mr. Nambiar's cut motion and Mr. Anthony's cut motion is in regard to 'quality control'. Wherever 'quality control' is there, I will allow it. S-

[**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**]

Mr. N. B. Chowdhury's cut motion No. 15 also is allowed.

Shri Damodara Menon: You have ruled out No. 15.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now reinstate 15. It is open to me to reconsider.

So the cut motions relating to Demand No. 45 are 14, 15 and 17.

Efficiency of administering control over certain matters relating to sugar industry

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000, in respect of 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Quality control of Vanaspati Ghee

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000, in respect of 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Tightening of quality control of vanaspati

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000, in respect of 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These cut motions are now before the House.

Now, let me dispose of cut motions regarding Demand No. 47 also, because we propose taking them together. Now, the first one is refusal of supplies. What does this demand relate to?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I point out with regard to this demand, Sir, that this is a formal sort of demand because the House has already granted us a sum of Rs. 4 crores and 30 lakhs by a supplementary grant last year. This supplementary demand has arisen only because all the money that was already granted could not be paid in the course of the last year. There is no fresh demand of any sort. In fact, the total demand is not necessary; we are going to make a saving of at least 25 lakhs.

This is by way of clarification. Of course, I do not wish to stop any discussion on any point which you would like to approve of, but this is really a very very formal matter. The whole sum has already been agreed to by way of supplementary grant previously in the year 1952-53 and simply because payments could not be made, we have come to this House to ratify the action.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When was this passed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Last year—1952-53.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: "Actual expenditure up to 31st March 1953 was, however, Rs. 1,95,00,000......As it was first anticipated that the entire subsidy would have been paid during 1952-53, no provision for the purpose was made in the estimates for the year 1953-54".

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are not spending the whole amount also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This could not be settled before 31st March 1953. Provision was made only later. During the last time when this supplementary demand was placed before the House, it was discussed. I would urge upon the hon. the Finance Minister particularly to bear in mind this in future. Whenever supplementary demands are placed before the House, the original demand and the other supplementary demands already made may be shown under each head. Now, if this relates to the original demand plus the latest supplementary demand, whatever we have passed in between is not known. If this is done, it will give an indication to the House and to the Members as to what exactly the amount that is sought to be expended is.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is in the note.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I wanted it earlier saying so much original demand, so much supplementary demand No. 1, then No. 2 etc. That will enable hon. Members to focus their attention upon this particular matter.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is only a formal matter. In view of this, let me dispose of the cut motions.

Now, cut motion No. 18 is out of order. Then as regards 'compensation to sugar factories', the matter has already been discussed. No new matter of policy arises. Then 'feasibility of withholding the payment of subsidy to sugar factories'....

Shri Gopala Rao (Gudivada) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will allow him to speak generally on this. Does he want to say that it is in order?

Shri Gopala Rao: I think it is in order. I will explain. The House passed this grant last year, in November, on the understanding that sugar would be sold at reduced prices. But what actually happened was that the sugar mill-owners did not dispose of their stocks at reduced rates. That is why a new situation has arisen. It must be reconsidered.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The sugar was not owned by millowners. It was concerning Government stocks of sugar. The Government released it in the first four months at reduced prices. The rise in price started in May after all that stock had been exhausted.

Shri Gopala Rao: The stocks with the sugar mills were taken away by the Government (*Interruptions*) and simply because they gave certain guarantees to the private trade, they brought this Bill.

Shri Kidwai: That is not correct. The Government had agreed to take over all the sugar at a given price. Then the Government decided to reduce the price and they brought in this Bill to cover the loss Government would suffer. Therefore, all the sugar was issued by the Government at the reduced price.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It was all discussed in the House.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I draw your attention to the note given there? It says: "......provided through a supplementary grant during the financial year 1952-53 for payment of compensation to sugar factories on stocks of controlled sugar with them on 1st December 1952 on account of reduction in controlled price".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it compensation or purchase price?

Shri Kidwai: The position is that we had guaranteed to take over all the sugar produced at a particular price.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do the hon. Members contend that notwithstanding compensation they have been selling sugar at higher prices?

Shri Kidwai: The whole sugar was sold by the Government and not by the mill owners. The price started rising in May and the sugar was exhausted by the end of March.

Shri Nambiar: We have to consider whether this compensation is to be paid hereafter and this House has to say whether it should be allowed or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not allowing a discussion at this stage, but anyhow inasmuch as questions have been put on the floor of the

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

House from time to time, this is an occasion when this matter can be thrashed out. I would like tentatively to keep this over without disallowing this motion. I would urge upon the hon. Minister and the hon. Members also to express once and for all whatever they have to say on this. Let them be clear in their minds as to what the position is, so far as the facts are concerned, whatever the inference may be.

Mr. Gurupadaswamy's amendment, I think, is the same. Compensation to sugar industry. Then payment of compensation to sugar factories; then compensation to sugar factories, is unnecessary. Then committent of the Government to the sugar factory owners and the sugar cess. So far as compensation is concerned, let them all be discussed.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think it is not compensation, Sir.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Sir, when the Sugar Cess Bill was brought here it was said that a sum of 4 crores of rupees will be raised from the consumers in order to pay compensation. Later on we know that the subsidy was paid to the exporters of sugar also and so we have to say something here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I don't think that sugar cess is imposed for the purpose of paying compensation to the sugar factory owners.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: In order to reduce the prices, Sir. But the factory owners did not reduce the prices. So there is no justification for compensation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let this also stand over. Now, under this demand cut motions Nos. 2, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 will tentatively be allowed to be discussed. They will be treated as moved.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): Besides the cut motions, will it be in order to raise a general discussion on the question of state trading with respect to this demand, because this means state trading also?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When did this state trading start; was it before or after the budget session?

Shri T. N. Singh: This grant is taken for state trading purposes also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The simple point is this. When did state trading in sugar start; was it before or after the budget session?

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): After.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This was after the Budget. This has arisen now. There is no contradiction on this side and I take it that what they say is absolutely correct.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I point out again that it is not compensation, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. T. N. Singh has been asking whether it is proper for him to raise the point about state trading in sugar. Because the question of state trading in sugar in any shape or form did not come during the budget discussions and no money was voted for it, I will allow a discussion on the policy whether it is desirable to have state trading in sugar or not.

Shri Kidwai: It was not raised at the time of the Budget because that was not under contemplation. Therefore this is a new provision.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then that will also be allowed under Demand No. 47.

Feasibility of withholding the payment of subsidy to sugar factories

Shri Gopala Rao: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Re. 1"

Compensation to sugar industry

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

Payment of compensation to sugar factories

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

Compensation to sugar factories is unnecessary

Shri B. P. Sinha (Monghyr Sadr *cum* Jamui): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

Payment of compensation to sugar factories

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

Commitment of the Government to the sugar factory owners and the sugar cess

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000, in respect of Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Tulsidas: Then there is Demand No. 125.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am coming to 125. Refusal of supplies to discuss the question of policy. Import of one lakh tons of sugar—3 and 4. Then 5, necessity to import sugar; it is also allowed. Then 32, import policy of sugar is in order also; 34, rise in price of sugar. Then, Shri Damodara Menon's cut motion, advisability of resorting to sugar import; 36, the import of sugar is unnecessary and against the spirit of swadeshi. Next, 36, sugar imports policy of the Government and their failure to reduce the price of sugar sold by dealers to the common consumer, then necessity of and the policy underlying the import of sugar, 38 is also, allowed. Method of distributing imported sugar and sugar prices—that will also be allowed.

Now, these are the cut motions under Demand No. 125; 3, 4, 532, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39. These three demands are before the House as also the cut motions that I have indicated. The hon. Members may speak.

Refusal of supplies

Shri Gopala Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced to Re. 1."

Import of one lakh tons of sugar

Shri Vittal Rao (Khammam): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity to import sugar

Shri Gopala Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Import policy of Sugar

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Rise in price of sugar

Shri Nàmbiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy relating to the import of sugar

Shri Kelappan (Ponnani): I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Advisability of resorting to sugar imports

Shri Damodara Menon: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The import of sugar is unnecessary and against the spirit of Swadeshi

Shri B. P. Sinha: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sugar imports policy of the Government and their failure to reduce the price of sugar sold by dealers to the common consumer

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of and the policy underlying the import of sugar

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Method of distributing imported sugar and sugar prices

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

An Hon. Member: What about other demands, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me also dispose of the other demands so that we may know what time has to be allowed for sugar and what time for others.

I have already said about 45 and 47. There are three relating to sugar, 45, 47 and 125. Then what about 59? I am only trying to assess what time it will take.

Shri Frank Anthony: It will take about an hour.

DEMAND NO. 45—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now place Demand No. 59 before the House. Motion is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of Demand No. 59, 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

What are the cut motions? No. 24, refusal of supplies; Kelappan is not here; it goes. Economy—as supplementary provision is excessive—cut motion of Frank Anthony allowed. Cut motion 26 is not in order. Nambiar's cut motion, No. 27, the need or otherwise of the additional provision for publicity of the Five Year Plan is allowed. Damodara Menon's cut motion No. 28—necessity of substantially reducing the expenditure on the integrated publicity programme by limiting the expansion scheme to the Films Division and the Publications Division—allowed. Shri Chattopadhyaya's cut motion goes—he is not in his seat. Sucheta Kripalani's cut motion—the necessity of having an integrated policy for publicity programme is allowed. N. B. Chaudhury's motion is the same. Now, these are the cut motions that are admitted. Nos. 25, 27, 28, 30 and 31.

Economy—as supplementary provision is excessive

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 30,00,000."

The need or otherwise of the additional provision for publicity of the Five Year Plan

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of substantially reducing the expenditure on the integrated publicity programme by limiting the expansion scheme to the Films Division and the Publications Division

Shri Damodara Menon: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of having an Integrated Publicity Programme of the Five Year Plan.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Efficiency and mode of propaganda envisaged

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I beg to move:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then what remains is Demand No. 133.

Shri Nambiar: I have got a cut motion, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; it is a grant of only Rs. 1,000. It is intended as a token grant. Hon. Members will see that the department is taking over and that about Rs. 20,00,000 is to be invested and the recurring expenditure is 6·8 lakhs etc. It is open to them to discuss. Therefore let me now proceed to allot time.

Shri Gopala Rao: There is one more, No. 90, Sir. There are no cut motions relating to that.

Shri Nambiar: I have my cut motion No. 40, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am taking it up. Now, it is past 12 o'clock.

In ten minutes we will be closing this chapter. After that we will be taking up steal discussions. We started at 11-30. It is now 12-05. It means that more than three quarters of an hour is over.

An Hon. Member: Can't we take it up in the evening?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the evening there will be a lot of other Government work besides PEPSU business. We will get up at 7 o'clock, when guillotine will be applied on sugar. Out of this time how many hours the hon. Members would like to have for sugar, collieries etc. Now that will be as under:

Colliery ...	... **Half-an-hour.**
Publicity ...	... One hour.
Sugar ...	One and a half hours.

We cannot expand time. I must only divide time. For 1½ hours sugar will be discussed. Then guillotine will be applied to all these demands 47, 48 and 125. Let it be clearly understood. One hour for the publicity expansion, half an hour for colliery and one and a half hour for sugar. At 7 o'clock all the demands together with the cut motions will be put to the vote. Immediately thereafter the hon. Minister will move his Appropriation Bill which will be disposed of at 7-15. The House will rise at 7-15.

Shri K. C. Reddy: In regard to demand No. 133 there are three cut motions.

Shri Nambiar: With the retrenchment in Railway collieries and non-implementation of the Central Pay Commission's scales of pay the staff should not be put to a disadvantage. That is my point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cut motion 40. What does the hon. Minister say.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The service for which this amount is asked for is for the construction of buildings etc. in order to effect a changeover. It is a very limited object.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it desirable to have the construction through departmental administration? In so doing whether the implementation of the Central Pay Commission's scales of pay comes in at all?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It does not come in...

Shri Nambiar: By the changeover the staff should not be put to any loss. That is my point. Unless the scales of the Pay Commission are implemented there is a likelihood of their losing the amount and the question of retrenchment also comes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of Central Pay Commission. They were all employees of the contractor. Therefore, this is a new one. They are taking it up departmentally. How does the Central Pay Commission come in?

Shri Nambiar: It may be taken up by the Government. All the centrally controlled staff comes under the Central Government. The Railways, Post and Telegraphs and other centrally controlled departments should get the Central Pay Commission benefit. That is my point

Shri K. C. Reddy: On that basis every aspect of the administration can come in. Any two aspects can be linked together. The question as to where should we draw the line is to be decided by the Chair.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I think there must be some method by means of which the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission should be applied to them. What is the difficulty I do not understand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not open to the hon. Members to say that you must have such and such scales of pay and that the employees should not be under-paid and so on and so forth. In a general way I will allow this also. After all we are allowing half-an-hour for this whole show.

All the cut motions 6, 7 and 40 are allowed.

DEMAND No. 90—CUTCH

Now I will put Demand No. 90 to the vote. There is no cut motion to it.

The question is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954 in respect of Demand No. 90 relating to Cutch."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am going to fix a time-limit. One hon. Member should not take the entire time. Ten minutes will be given to an individual hon. Member. Let the hon. Members state their points as 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on. Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when this problem of sugar was discussed a few days back on the floor of the House the hon. the Food Minister made certain remarks. He said that the present rise in sugar price is due to too much of demand for sugar and the availability of sugar has decreased because there is decrease in the quantity of cane available in the country. He also incidentally said that there is paucity of wagon supply. So sugar cannot be taken from the factories and distributed all over the country.

I want to analyse one or two things regarding the price of sugar. I want also to analyse whether sugar production in the country is adequate enough to meet the demand of the country. My purpose is to prove that the sugar availability of the country is enough to meet the demand and there is no necessity to import sugar from abroad. Before I go into this question, I say that the whole policy of sugar import is followed without taking into consideration the various factors *viz.* the exact demand of the country, the exact supply of sugar and the total availability of gur. The hon. the Food Minister has proceeded on a hypothetical proposition that because there is price rise in sugar we must import sugar from foreign countries. That is a very dangerous hypothesis. There was rise in price in April 1953 because the Government's interest.........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may kindly continue later. Now, the House will take up the one-hour discussion on the statement of the Minister of Production regarding the project for a new steel plant, notice of which was given by Mr. T. N. Singh.

PROJECT FOR A NEW STEEL PLANT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are as many as ten hon. Members who have indicated their desire to speak. The practice is this: the hon. mover or the person who tabled this will have ten to fifteen minutes. Why is the hon. Member sitting quiet?

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): I will certainly obey the ruling from the Chair. I shall be very brief, but I hope some latitude will be allowed to me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not more than 15 minutes. One minute each for the other Members.

An Hon. Member: Five minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will put only questions.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): In a discussion of this sort, you have followed the practice of letting everybody have his say, though, of course, you might have the unpleasant duty of having to cut out certain names.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I suggest is this. Chits are pouring in. Already I have got ten names. I am prepared to abide by whatever the House wants. We have fixed one hour 15 minutes are allowed to the mover. Possibly in an indirect manner he wanted to suggest that there may be more latitude. The hon. Minister must reply. How many minutes would the hon. Minister require?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Anywhere between 15 and 20 minutes; it all depends upon the time taken by the hon. Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, 15 to 20 minutes, say, for the hon. mover. And 15 minutes, say, for the hon. Minister's reply. So, about 35 minutes will be taken away. Then there are only 25 minutes more. So, I suggest that hon. Members might form themselves into groups, and will try to suggest the names, in an order of priority, whom they like me to call. Otherwise, I will have to call at random. Yes, Mr. T. N. Singh.

Shri T. N. Singh: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Minister of Production, the Minister of the youngest Ministry of our Government made his statement in the House on the 24th August, I was certainly very curious to know more facts about it, for, I felt, Sir, that the statement left many things' unsaid, and that the information that we got was a bare outline; and sometimes outlines are misleading too. It was for this reason that I tabled this motion so that the House may have an opportunity to discuss this thing in a rather greater detail. I must say, here and now, that I do not want to be lengthy. I will try to be as brief as possible so that other Members here may also get an opportunity to throw light on this subject.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

Sir, I have carefully read and re-read the statement made by the hon. Minister of Production. I say advisedly that it leaves many things unsaid, because just look at the beginning of the statement. It says: "The management of the company shall vest in a Board in which the Government and the combine will have representation proportionate to their respective investments." Now. we do not yet know what the particular investment of that company is going to be. It is, I am told, on a sliding scale dependent on the amount of purchases we make from Germany. They may even invest one crore or two crores and yet will they be entitled to representation? Supposing it invests Rs. 80 crores. If there is a membership of five, and if a party invests two crores, will they have proportionate representation, and if so, what will be that proportion? So, I felt that the whole thing was vague. We have committed, according to what I see here, to grant them representation, but they have not committed in regard to the investments that they will make. Then, if they are committed in regard to the investments, they are only committed in relation to the amount of plants we purchase from that particular concern. Look at it again. We are told, according to the statement, that they are going to invest Rs. 9·5 crores as share capital of their own in this concern. But that is followed by the qualification: "the exact month depending on the value of the plant that they may supply." And here, the statement is silent. What is the relation on which it depends? It will be one-third, one-fourth or even one-sixth, of the value of the plant purchased. That again, I say, is rather vague. If the Minister had taken the House a little more into confidence it was not going to jeopardise any future negotiations. I do not know why it was held over. Yet rumour is away, on getting things about what are supposed to be very secret, and I understand and I think—I am not trying in any way to create difficulties in the way of any future negotiation that the Government may have on the subject—I think it is our right and privilege and it is up to the Ministry that they should know what the reaction of the people and this Parliament is, to certain suggestions which should be made. I am told, Sir, that their investment will be in proportion to one-third of the plant that we purchase from them.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is graduated.

Shri T. N. Singh: Whether it is graduated or not, it is some mystery. But rumour is away on getting things out. I am giving you some indications: if the Minister wants to go into the details, I will certainly be very glad to do so.

Then, may I know why we sent only one individual to negotiate such a big thing. I am against that principle. I have nothing against that particular individual. I know him and have known him for a long time. But it is wrong to send somebody from here, whosoever he be, and ask him, give him a blank cheque to sign whatever he wants. This is what is happening not only in this case but in other cases also. We have found from experience that this should not be done. Yet, this thing has been repeated. When we send a particular individual with such great responsibilities to commit this country, and the Government, can we not send a team with him so as to strengthen him? We have technical men, men who are experts. Can we, not send a financial expert and also an engineer with him? He must know what an iron industry or a steel industry is. I want to know why a single individual was sent by this Government, and then he signed the agreement by himself. It is wrong that the agreement should have been signed abroad. It should have been signed here. Mistakes like that have been done in the past. Agreements have always been found faulty. In this case, we do not know where it is going to lead us. It is a sketchy agreement, I am told, to be followed by further agreements to clarify the position. In the meantime, they are committed to certain essentials and the revised agreement or the extended agreement that will follow will be governed by whatever we have committed ourselves to at present. Supposing they invest only Rs. 50 lakhs. Tenders are called, machinery and plant are purchased, but we do not purchase more than Rs. 1½ crores worth of machinery from these concerns. Then, as a shareholder of only Rs. 50 lakhs, they will have a say in our Board of Directors. After all responsibility goes with commitment. Why should we on our part commit ourselves in advance?

Or, let the Government admit right now that they do mean to purchase plant and machinery from them of the value of Rs. 30 crores: otherwise, why this Rs. 9·5 crores has been arrived at? How has it been worked? What is in the mind of the persons who went there, in that they have thought that this is the actual investment that the company is going to make. And yet it is said that whatever plant is to be purchased will be purchased after tenders have been

[Shri T. N. Singh]

invited—global tenders, mind you! We have been inviting global tenders in the past in certain other cases.

Let me go a little more into the history of this agreement. A question was asked some months ago here about some team having gone to America for a loan, but the other part was not so much emphasised, namely, it was accompanied by a technical delegation also which was to negotiate for some iron or steel company here. So, first came America, then came Japan. Now comes Western Germany, a country under virtual occupation. Then again, the agreement virtually means an agreement with America. That is my contention. (*An hon. Member*: No, no) Yes, that is my contention, because there are other complications in that. After all Krupps and similar concerns have always been very intimately connected with the Government of their country. That is their history. Tomorrow, supposing Western Germany and Eastern Germany become one State, what will be the position of these concerns? Will they be in a position to honour the agreement that they are entering into today with us. That is another point which has to be borne in mind. It is wrong not to look to the implications of a fluid state of affairs. I submit that the whole thing is very fluid in that regard. In Germany itself, the whole position, political as well as economic, is fluid. That has to be taken into consideration in any agreement that is arrived at with them.

Thirdly, I want to know what is the special technical ability which we poor Indians—backward though we may be —do not possess in the matter of iron and steel. We have been carrying on this industry for a number of years. I hold no brief for anybody—I must make it very clear. Friends who know me, will bear me out that I have not even seen the face of the iron and steel magnates of this country. But I am saying that we have got technicians, experts, people with experience in this line. Was it not possible to associate or get them interested in this matter? Did we explore the possibilities of it—at least I want to be assured on that point. If we explored the possibilities, let us know whether they were also demanding consultant fees of Rs. 2½ crores.

I am informed that it was possible to negotiate—leave aside Indians, because Indian technicians however qualified they may be would be 'inferior'—with certain other firms outside India, who were willing to do the job, not for this heavy consultant's fee. I am sure of it. Will the Minister here disclose the various negotiations with various concerns that have been going on for the last two or three years. He must disclose this if he wants to rebut what I am saying.

I must make it clear that I have no intention of jeopardising any future negotiations. Whatever Government is doing to increase production of steel, let it do. I do not want to be obstructive. I want more and more iron and steel factories to go up in this country. But I want at the same time to see that things are done in the proper way. I do not want that we should enter into ten negotiations and at last pitch upon one which is unfortunately not so good. So the hon. Minister has to assure us that there was no other concern outside India—leave aside India—which was not prepared to do things much cheaper and much better without any commitment regarding purchases, or proportionate investment.

After all we want this concern to be solely ours. We do not want any foreigner to have a say in it. We do not want even the ordinary man of India to have a say in it, because we want it to be a State concern. That is what I understand is the idea. It is going to be a State industry, without any private capital even. Is a great foreign pre-war combine the proper body to invest money in our State concern? That is one of the important aspects which should have been taken into consideration. We cannot forget politics. Politics is intimately found up with economics, particularly the politics of Europe, Asia and South-East Asia.

So, these are the points to which I want to draw attention. Before I conclude I want to make one request. Let us not quarrel here about the site or the location of this concern. It would deflect the whole discussion. I would make an earnest appeal to hon. members not to involve ourselves at this stage into that discussion. Bihar may, be anxious, Madras may be anxious for this agreement, or Orissa may be anxious. Bihar may be anxious for the plant to be located in that State: so may be Orissa or Madhya Pradesh. In parts we show so much anxiety that the other party always get the upper hand. Therefore in the interest of the future negotiations that may be carried on, for the sake of unbiassed advice that the House may give, I would make an earnest appeal to members not to raise the question of site or location, but to discuss the entire question on merits. I have given some indications on which the discussion can go on.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Sir, it is important that we have this opportunity of discussing, rather telegraphically, the latest performance of Government regarding the production of steel. It was, Sir, on the 15th of August that somewhere in Europe, in lone splendour, the Secretary of our Ministry of Production signed a document which is today under consideration.

Now, Sir, I must refer in brief, to the record which our Government has got regarding steel production and we find that everything has gone away because of lack of steel. We were supplied with a copy of a pamphlet called "Programmes of Industrial Development" published by the Planning Commission in 1952, where mention was made of forty protected consumer industries and other industries like automobiles, railway rolling stock, ship-building, sewing machines, bicycles, etc. etc., which were all held up because of lack of iron and steel. This has happened in spite of the fact that we have all the raw materials in abundance for the production of iron and steel.

Sir, in 1948-49 we got the services of three foreign consultant firms at a cost of Rs. 10,70,000 to report on where we should set up a one million ton steel factory, or two million ton factories as State enterprise. They reported very carefully, but the reports are still unavailable even to Members of Parliament. I find only one thing that is very noticeable about it. One of the three foreign concerns, Messrs. Koppers Corporation from the United States assessed that in 1953 the natural requirement of India in iron and steel would be 3.43 million tons. But we all know from the figures contained in the tomes of the National Planning Commission how very backward we still are. That is why we would certainly welcome any opportunity of having a fillip to our iron and steel production, but I am sure we are not going the right way. As a matter of fact, I saw some time back a statement made by Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai before a Conference of Engineers that a twenty million ton target ought to be set for our country, to be achieved in about 20 years' time. But we are nowhere near that kind of thing.

In the meantime, our Government behaves in regard to the Burnpur steel factory in a very pernicious fashion. It acts as if it is not concerned with the production and growth of iron and steel industries in India. I have got some figures of production at Burnpur. It has gone down from December 1952 when it was 26,620 tons to June 1953 when it was 4,020 tons. This happens and the Government stands on ceremony and says here a lot of things about the intolerable way the workers are behaving when they were making a

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

simple demand for the reconstitution of their Union. That is the background of this agreement.

I don't see the Prime Minister here who is very conversant with certain international happenings. It is so well known that Krupp von Bohlen, Thyssen and others of their kind like Demag have been responsible for some of the most dastardly activities as far as international financial racketeering is concerned and they are the people who are now being boosted as Adenauer is boosted in Bonn and they are now coming into the picture, getting the best of both worlds as it were. We find them getting Rs. 2.10 crores as a fixed fee, *i.e.*, 3 per cent. of the estimated cost. We don't know what is going to happen or whether in four years' time this installation is going to be completed. We don't quite know how this Government is going to act in this matter because we all know that the experience of Government production has not at all been satisfactory.

Please give me five minutes' time so that I may round off the arguments that I have brought forward.

Mr. Chairman: Please be very brief.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find certain terms are being offered to these people which show that actually they would get a very considerable sum of money and in the meantime no real effort is being made to develop steel production in this country. In regard to this, as you all know, Mr. J. R. D. Tata has told his shareholders that instead of investing Rs. 75 crores, for which Government propose to enter into contract with the German company, his company could achieve the same result with an investment of only Rs. 40 crores, while another Indian concern would do so with an investment of Rs. 65 crores. Here is a statement which says that Rs. 10 and Rs. 35 crores are being thrown away because of the present arrangement. I say this because Government is entering into an agreement with an international combine which has a very dastardly reputation as far as racketeering in the international sphere is concerned. Government have entered into an agreement on terms which, as Mr. T. N. Singh has pointed, are extremely dangerous to the basic economic interests of our country. Government is not conscious of the need for going in for a substantial increase in our steel production if planning of any kind has got to be a reality. I say that this agreement is entirely unsatisfactory and we should express our strongest disapproval of what Government is doing in this matter.

सेठ गोविन्द दास (मंडला-जबलपुर-दक्षिण) : सभापति महोदय, मेरे पास सिर्फ ५ मिनट हैं और मुझे जो कुछ कहना है मैं बहुत जल्दी कह दूंगा ।

Mr. Chairman: How has the hon. Member assumed that he will be given five minutes?

Shri B. Das (Jaipur-Keonjhar): Please give me five minutes as I also want to put questions on this.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मैं समझता हूं कि मेरा वह समय नहीं काटा जायगा जो कि आपने और दास साहब ने ले लिया है ।

जहांतक इस्पात के कारखाने का सम्बन्ध है सबसे पहले तो मैं सरकार को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस बहुत बड़ी कमी की पूर्ति कर रही है । मुझे इस बात का भी विश्वास है कि इसमें हमारे देश के जो लाभ हानि के मामले हैं वे पूरी तरह से देखे जायेंगे । श्री टी० एन० सिंह साहब ने एक यह बात कही कि हमको इस विषय पर विचार करने की या इस विषय को उठाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है कि यह कारखाना कहां स्थापित किया जायेगा । वह उत्तर प्रदेश के सदृश एक महान प्रदेश से आते हैं जो कि अत्यन्त धनवान प्रान्त है, हमारे देश का सब

से बड़ा प्रान्त है । उनको तो यह कहना बहुत सरल है, लेकिन उड़ीसा वाले या मध्य प्रदेश वाले जो कि गरीब लोग हैं, इस प्रकार की उदारता नहीं दिखा सकते । हम सारे देश को एक दृष्टि से देखते हैं और हमारे लिये उड़ीसा, मध्यप्रदेश, बंगाल, बिहार सब एक से हैं, सब भारत के टुकड़े हैं ; परन्तु यह सब देखते हुए हमें यह भी देखना होगा कि सबसे अधिक सफल वह कारखाना कहां होगा । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह बात सही है या नहीं कि जहां तक इस्पात के इस कारखाने के लिये लोहे के खनिज पदार्थ का सम्बन्ध है, जहांतक कोयले का सम्बन्ध है, जांहतक चूने के खनिज पदार्थ का सम्बन्ध है, जो चीजें इस कारखाने के उत्पादन के लिये बहुत आवश्यक हैं, उनके पास रिपोर्ट आयी है या नहीं कि मध्य प्रदेश इस सम्बन्ध में सबसे उत्तम स्थान है ?

इसके बाद दो चीज़ें और आती हैं, एक बिजली और दूसरा पानी ।

Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati): Why has the hon. Member excluded Assam?

Mr. Chairman: Allow the hon. Member to proceed please.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इन तीन पदार्थों के बाद जिन दो चीजों के प्रश्न और उठते हैं, वे हैं एक बिजली और दूसरा पानी । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी पूछना चाहता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने उनसे यह बात कही है या नहीं कि हमारे यहां रायपुर में बिजली का थरमल स्टेशन है जो बहुत बड़ा स्टेशन है और हमारे प्रान्त की सरकार उस स्टेशन से...

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of order, Sir. The scope of the discussion is limited to the agreement and does not include any other things. I want him therefore to confine his discussion to the agreement and the statement as made thereon. The whole point regarding the location is irrelevant. May I submit that this should not be discussed?

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (जिला बनारस-मध्य) : विषयान्तर हो रहा है ।

Mr. Chairman: It seems the statement made by Shri Reddy does not make any reference to the agreement.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The statement relates to the agreement and there is a sentence in the statement making a reference to the agreement.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति महोदय मैं यह कहना चाहता था आपसे कि जहां तक इन तीन खनिज पदार्थों का सम्बन्ध है उसके अतिरिक्त दो प्रश्न और उठते हैं एक बिजली का और दूसरा पानी का । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता था कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने उनसे यह बात कही है या नहीं कि रायपुर में हमारे यहां पर थरमल प्लांट है और उससे .....

श्री विभूति मिश्र (सारन व चम्पारन) : पाइंट आफ़ आर्डर । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आपने कहा कि लोहा बनाने के लिये कोकिंग कोल की जरूरत पड़ती है । वह सिवाय बिहार के और कहीं नहीं है ।

Mr. Chairman: Having raised a point of order which it is really not, the hon. Member stands and begins to make a speech without being called. He cannot be allowed to interrupt the proceeding in this way

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, मेरे भाषण के बीच बीच में जो मेरा समय गया है उसको भी आप कृपया घड़ी में देख लें ।

मैं बहुत जल्दी खत्म करना चाहता हूं लेकिन कई लोग बीच में समय ले लेते हैं तो मैं क्या कर सकता हूं । मैं यह कह रहा था कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने इस बात की

[सेठ गोविन्द दास]

माननीय मंत्री जी को लिखा है या नहीं कि जो रायपुर का बिजली का थरमल प्लांट है वहां से वह अपने खर्चे पर उनको यथेष्ट बिजली देगी और जहां तक पानी का सम्बन्ध है वहां तक तन्दुला नहर से पानी जायगा जिस पर मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार अपनी ओर से ६ करोड़ रुपया खर्च करने को तैयार है । इस प्रकार से यदि आप देखें तो लोहे के पत्थर की दृष्टि से, चूने के पत्थर की दृष्टि से, कोयले की दृष्टि से, बिजली की दृष्टि से और पानी की दृष्टि से, सब दृष्टियों से, हमारा मध्य प्रदेश सबसे अच्छा है ।

फिर उत्पादन के खर्च और वितरण के खर्च का प्रश्न आता है । वहां पर यह भी बहुत सस्ता हो सकता है, और इसके बाद अनेक दूसरी परिस्थितियां आती हैं जैसे सुरक्षा । मध्य प्रदेश बीच में होने के कारण सुरक्षा भी वहां पर इस कारखाने को जितनी मिल सकती है उतनी कदाचित किसी और जगह नहीं मिल सकती । (*Interruption*)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member is shouting from there so that the proceedings may be stopped.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (जिला गोरखपुर—दक्षिण) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैंने यह कहा कि विषय तो है लोहे का ......

Mr. Chairman: I do not understand the interruption of the hon. Member. When I ask him that he should not shout he begins to make a speech. How can the debate in the House be conducted in this manner?

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति महोदय, मैं तो आप के सामने इस सम्बन्ध में अनेक विशेषज्ञों की राय भी पढ़ना चाहता था...

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : हाउस में डिबेट होने के लिये रूल यह है कि जो सदस्य बोलें, वे विषयान्तर न करें । हमें अधिकार है कि सभापति महोदय का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलावें कि विषयान्तर की बातें हो रही हैं ?

सभापति महोदय : इन को ज्यादा से ज्यादा तीन या चार मिनट के लिये बोलने का समय मिलेगा । उसी में जो कुछ इन को बोलना है वह बोल सकेंगे । तो इस में बहुत बाहर की बातें यह कहां से कह सकेंगे, इस में इर्रलेवेंस का सवाल कहां है ?

I would request the hon. Member to conclude his remarks soon.

सेठ गोविन्द दास: जहां तक मेरा अनुभव है, मैंने आज तक कोई विषयान्तर नहीं किया । लोहे के, इस्पात के, कारखाने का जो सवाल उपस्थित है उस के सम्बन्ध में जितनी बातें होंगी, बिजली होगी, कोयला होगा, पानी होगा, पत्थर होगा वह सब आप के सामने रखनी होंगी । मैं इस विषय में अनेक विशेषज्ञों की राय भी बतलाना चाहता था, लेकिन मेरे पास समय नहीं है ।

मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि समूचा भारत हमारे लिये समान रूप से प्रिय है, लेकिन यह इस्पात का कारखाना कहां स्थापित होने से सब से अधिक लाभप्रद होगा, यह बात मैं आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूं । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि उन के पास मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने इस प्रकार के पूरे प्रमाण उपस्थिति किये हैं या नहीं कि जिन से सिद्ध हो जाता है कि मध्य प्रदेश ही इस कारखाने के लिये सर्वोत्तम स्थान है ?

Mr. Chairman: Shri B. Das. I would request the hon. Member to

put only questions, because if everybody wants to make a long speech the others will not get a chance.

Shri B. Das: I would like my friend the hon. Minister of Production to assure my friend Mr. T. N. Singh that somehow he has caught the German-phobia instead of the American-phobia and America wanted to patronize India through the American advisers. I would like him to ask my friend whether the American advisers on steel factory have not played the part of the dog in the manger and postponed the steel works coming into India for the last three years. If my friend Mr. T. N. Singh only knew how Koppers have played the dirty game,—the usual dirty game of Dulles and others! I was surprised that my esteemed friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee has caught the German-phobia today. Germans have never done any harm to India like U.K. or U.S.A. They might have owed us some money in the non-payment of money on 1st War reparations. (*Interruption*). We are not discussing high politics. If we do I will tell you that the Germans fought against U.K., our sworn enemy. Today because people have some suspicions against Germany, they want that we should hang on the apron-strings of America. Certainly not. And the Americans, Koppers will never do it. They are against any industrial expansion in India. Mr. Mukerjee gave quotations, Tatas and others. Tatas want to do everything! We have given seventy to eighty crores to them by way of protection of the steel industries. Why are Tatas not able to stand on their own legs by now? The hon. Minister's statement contained some insinuation that Indian manufacturers are working against the establishment of other steel concerns. There were handicaps; there were postponements. What happened during the Britishers' time and in Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's time, is well known. I am not pleading for Orissa. I stand on my right there. The Orissa plant did not come into existence because certain other events happened in the Ministry of Industry and Supply. That is why SCOB and the other company was unified and the result is the Burnpur labour war of which we see an exhibition today. They were unfit to get that help. I was against it; but for party reasons I had to support that. Let my hon. friend the Minister explain all these to Mr. T. N. Singh. (*Some hon. Members*: To the House). It was in Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's time that these things happened. Let us have this steel works with advice and co-operation of the German Firms. We will never regret it.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra (Khurda): After the appeal of Mr. T. N. Singh not to bring in the question of the location of the proposed Iron and Steel plant into the discussion, I was very reluctant to speak. But, my revered friend Seth Govind Dasji has set the ball rolling and he has tried to prove that the Central Provinces is the best place for the location of the iron and steel plant. During the Budget discussions, I had quoted facts and figures from the official reports of the Geological Survey of India and the opinion of the geologists and experts to establish that Orissa is the most suitable place for the Plant. He has talked of a thermal station that has now been started in his State. But, he has conveniently forgotten that the Hirakud dam project on which we are going to spend 92 crores of rupees will produce power to the extent of 3 lakh kw. In a recent report received, regarding survey of the load for the Hirakud Power Station, I find that all the industries that are near about Hirakud will consume only 65,000 kw. Hence, if the Government of India means to get back the money which they have advanced, from the Orissa Government, if not for anything else, Orissa should be the first place for the location of this plant.

Some Hon. Members: No. C.P.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra: If there is to be a second plant, C.P. may be considered. I do not want to say anything more. I only record the claims of Orissa to be the first place for the establishment of the plant.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर उत्तर-पश्चिम): श्री टी० एन० सिंह के अपील करने पर मैं यह सोच रहा था कि स्थान निर्णय का सवाल अभी पेश किया जाय या नहीं । फिर भी अन्य प्रान्त के लोगों ने इस सवाल को हमारे सामने रखा है । मैं भी एक प्रान्त से आया हूं । लेकिन अपने प्रान्त की दृष्टि से मैं आप के सामने इस प्रश्न को नहीं रखना चाहता हूं । मैं सिर्फ देश की दृष्टि से इस प्रश्न पर विचार करने को आप से अपील करता हूं ।

पिछली २४ तारीख को जब हमारे प्रोडक्शन मिनिस्टर ने यह कहा था कि इकानामी आफ प्रोडक्शन एंड डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन ही एकमात्र आधार उन के सामने होगा, इस बात का निर्णय करने के लिये कि किस स्थान पर यह कारखाना खोला जाय, तो इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें करना जरूरी हो जाता है । मैं उस में सिर्फ एक बात और जोड़ना चाहता हूं कि उन को यह भी कहना चाहिये था कि जल्द से जल्द यह कारखाना कहां खोला जा सकता है । जहां तक इकानामिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन और इकानामिक प्रोडक्शन का सवाल है, मैं समझता हूं कि रा मैटीरियल्स के बारे में हमारे कुछ दोस्तों ने कहा है कि लोहा, चूना और कोयला, ये सारी चीजें उन के प्रान्तों में सस्ती मिल सकती हैं । ये बातें यहां कहने से ही प्रमाणित नहीं समझी जा सकतीं । उस के फैक्टस हैं, फिगर्स हैं, स्टैटिस्टिक्स हैं । बड़े बड़े विशेषज्ञों ने इन की जांच की है और जांच कर के उन्होंने बतलाया है कि दूसरे प्रान्तों में यह चीजें सस्ती मिल सकती हैं । प्रोडक्शन के मामले में सभी विशेषज्ञों ने जो अब तक रिपोर्ट दी है, उस में सबों ने एक ही जगह बताई है जहां ये चीजें सस्ती मिल सकती हैं, लोहा सस्ता बन सकता है ।

जहां तक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का सवाल है, इस के बाहर भेजने के खर्च का सवाल है, उस में कुछ मतभेद हो गया है । कुछ लोगों का कहना है कि एक साइट ठीक है दूसरों का कहना है दूसरा साइट ठीक है । दो तीन तरह की साइट उन्होंने बतलाई हैं । किसी ने कहा कि फलां साइट अच्छी है और किसी ने कहा कि दूसरी साइट अच्छी है । मैं चाहता हूं कि आज इस का भी ऐलान हो जाना चाहिये । पहले जो एक कमेटी बनी थी उस ने एक सिफारिश की है । उस के बाद एक्सपर्ट लोगों ने दूसरी सिफारिश की है उसके बाद से अब तक की स्थिति में बहुत भारी तबदीली हो गई है ।

इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि एक्सपर्ट लोगों ने उस समय जो कुछ देखा था, जांच की थी और तय किया था, जैसे वाटर सप्लाई के बारे में, ट्रांसपोर्ट के बारे में, इन सब चीजों के बारे में जो तबदीली हुई है, उस की पूरी तरह जांच करने के बाद ही कोई साइट का निर्णय किया जाय और इस सम्बन्ध में हर प्रान्तीय सरकार को अपनी अपनी बातों को रखने का मौका दिया जाय, ताकि वे अपनी बातें रख सकें । इस में किसी भी सरकार को वंचित न किया जाय । इस सब के बाद ही साइट का निर्णय हो कि कहां जल्द से जल्द और सस्ता लोहा बन सकता है ।

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): Tata Steel Deferreds are the kings in the Indian Stock Exchanges; but the production of steel is our weakest spot, the most vulnerable spot of our Defence and heavy industry. I want to ask the hon. Minister: what is the position of our steel production as compared with other countries? In the year 1913, the Czarist regime in Russia had fixed a target of 4.2 million tons—in feudal, ignorant and illiterate Russia! And we, in the year 1957, are going to produce only 2.7 million tons. This is a hopeless failure in the matter of steel which we need for

our ships, automobiles and planes, and which we need for building up India as a great land of defence against any kind of possible enemy attack.

In 1946. Stalin had planned the trebling of the pre-war steel production so as to reach the target of 60 million tons. In its peak period, the principal producer, America, reached 80 million tons. Poland, after World War II—Poland, divided and ravaged by the war—now annually produces 5 million tons. And I do not know why the Government of India is not putting all its brains and men together to produce steel, whether it be under the Germans, or the Japanese or the Anglo-Americans. The American oil refineries have been given a lease of 25 years; but we do not want the Americans to follow us with their guns, at the end of that period or refuse us oil during a war. As against the Germans, as an hon. Member said, we have no grudge, though the American shadow is cast over them in West Germany. However, we want steel to be given the highest priority. Steel is the real strength and the guts of our national life, of our defence, of our industry. In Russia, Sir, they simply stopped the production of consumer goods, when Stalin planned the production of steel. He said: "We do not want to produce any kind of consumer goods". The women went without stockings, the men went without shoes, but in India we are glutting our land with all kinds of lipsticks and powders and all kinds of other consumer goods. Thus we have forgotten our duty towards steel. We imported about 178,000 tons of steel in 1951. And we have got an iron ore of 1,500 to 2,000 million tons in our country which has got 60 to 70 per cent. of iron contents; compared to forty per cent. iron contents in Europe. And what are we doing? We have got gold in our hands and we are not exploiting it? We have got perhaps corrupt officials. Anyhow, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri Reddy. He has been the ex-Chief Minister of Mysore where iron and steel are produced. At least I congratulate him for placing us on the map of steel production. We need three more factories in three different places, all first class. We do not want to allow monopoly to Tatas, who have received all kinds of benefits and protection at the hands of the Indian nation. We frankly need more steel plants. I am distressed to see this spectacle of all my friends wanting the Kamadenu. They want to have the steel plant here or there. We want the Kamadenu, the sacred cow, but everybody forgets that we have to distribute the milk unto all the people, not unto a few folks, here and there. Every one says: "I shall have the *Kamadhenu* (कामधेनु) for myself", meaning that God take care of the rest. It is not the place that matters. The place is immaterial; it is only of secondary importance. The highest priority must be given to steel production, whether it be under the Germans or the Japanese—and not Americans—and the agreement should be placed before the House. I am sorry I have to go on fast because the time at my disposal is very short.

When the British got a licking in Iran, they had to go a hunting for places for oil refineries; hence they came to Bombay and we gave them a 25 years lease. If at end of 25 years, our country still adopts a neutral and independent attitude, we shall have gained. We can produce as much and as quickly as possible. Though there may be bad spots in this agreement we welcome it. We shall have more steel factories, and irrespective of whether there is a boom of the Tata Deferreds in the Indian Stock Exchanges or not, we shall see that steel is produced which means more factories and more employment for our young men, so that the weak spots of our economy, of our defence, of our heavy industries can be removed and the gaps may be filled in and thus we may achieve a bright, safe future for India.

1 P.M.

Shri L. N. Mishra (Darbhanga *cum* Bhagalpur): I do not know why in

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

the Agreement no decision has been arrived at as to the location of the plant. I would like to say here that in such matters we cannot brush aside the economic conditions of India. I think we have to work under the conditions of price market in India. Therefore, the location of this industry should be at a place where the production of steel will be cheapest. We need at this time least-cost products. We cannot ignore the question of consumption propensity and therefore, I feel that we should consider the place where it can be produced cheaply—at a low cost.

You will agree that three factors mainly govern the production cost: firstly, the cost of assembly of raw materials; secondly, freight charges; and thirdly, power charges. To my mind, a solution to these three problems will be found in Sindri in Bihar. So far as the cost of raw materials is concerned, it has been decided after calculation of comparative cost that it is cheapest at Sindri. Therefore, I feel that the Government should not ignore the recommendation made by Messrs. Kopper & Co. that comparison of assembly cost is a true measure of the value of the plant site. Secondly, in the matter of transport, Sindri has the advantage of lying on the main railway system of India......

An Hon. Member: It is not a central place.

Shri L. N. Mishra: We can quickly go from Sindri to Calcutta which is at present the best market for finished steel goods. If we have it at Sindri, we can utilise all the empty wagons that carry coal to Jamshedpur. So far as the power question is concerned, you know Sindri lies in the heart of the D.V.C. area where we have abundant power and abundant water supply also which are very badly needed for any steel plant. Therefore, I feel that these three considerations support the claim of Sindri to have this steel plant.

I do not know why regionalisation has been given the first consideration in the selection of the site. Regionalisation need not be allowed to dictate us. In the days of 'atomic' war it does not matter whether we have it in Sindri or in some other place in Madhya Pradesh or in Orissa. If Sindri is bombed at 9 A.M. alternative site in Orissa or Madhya Pradesh can be bombed at 11 A.M. Therefore, I say that we must locate it at a place where we can produce steel most cheaply, in the most efficient manner and at the earliest possible time. I have nothing more to say.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): I welcome this debate on the statement that I made on the floor of this House on the 24th August because it gives me an opportunity to throw some more light on the agreement that we have entered into with the German combine in relation to the new steel project.

In the course of the debate certain doubts and misgivings have been given expression to which I shall try to dispel to the best of my capacity within the short time at my disposal. Many points have been made, some of them minor points and some of them major ones. I am afraid it will not be possible for me, within the short time at my disposal, to take up every one of those points made by the various members and to give a full answer. So, Sir, I shall confine myself to some of the more important ones.

No hon. Member in this House has said that this steel project was unnecessary or that more production of steel was not called for in view of the requirements of our country. If anything, a criticism has been made that in view of the large requirements of our country, we have been lagging behind in the production of steel; we ought to have gone ahead for the establishment of a steel plant in our country much earlier and so on and so forth. So, this steel project has not come a day too early.

We must congratulate ourselves that we have been successful in securing this agreement with the German combine for the establishment of this project. Sir, the Government contemplate in the very near future to go ahead with their plans to have yet another steel project of another half a million ton capacity. The Government are fully aware that there is great need for expanding the production of steel in our country. As Mr. Joachim Alva was pointing out, when we compare our steel production with the production in other countries, we are very far behind and we are conscious of it and we must make every effort to increase the production of steel in our country. Our present requirements are in the neighbourhood of about two million tons. By 1957, the requirements on the lowest estimate will be about 20,80,000 tons, and our production, even taking into account the expansion programme that the private units have undertaken, by 1957 will be about 16.50.000 tons. So the immediate need we have got to fulfil in our country is to put up a steel plant which will produce at least on a lowest estimate one million tons. It is for that purpose, Sir, that we have gone ahead with the plans for this steel project which should have come off earlier. We had to contend against forces which we could not control then and there and it is only now that we have been able to take firm steps to establish this steel project.

Mr. Singh raised many points, some of them minor as I said. One of the main points that he made was, was there not any other party whom we could think of. He referred to the political situation in Germany and said there could have been several other, parties with whom we could have negotiated. I want to say categorically that every effort has been made by the Government to find out all the possible parties with whom we could have collaborated in the establishment of a project of this nature.

In the first place, we wanted to make sure that this project was a state project and that the State had full control over the project. In the second place, we wanted to have suitable technical collaborators, unimpeachable in their integrity, unquestioned in their efficiency and in whom we could have complete confidence. We have been trying to find out such collaborators for the last two or three years. We have contacted interests in U.S.A., we have contacted interests in Japan and we have also tried to see what progress we could make with U.K. interests. We have tried all possible means and I am here to say without any doubts or misgivings in my mind that the agreement we have ultimately entered into with the German combine is the best we could secure under the existing circumstances.

Shri T. N. Singh: Did we negotiate with any U.K. firm or the U.K. Government; and what happened in that?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot go into all the details. We discussed with U.K. firms and indirectly also the Government must have come into the picture. We did not directly negotiate with the U.K. Government; and in matters of this kind we do not generally negotiate with the Governments as such but only with the parties concerned.

Shri T. N. Singh: What happened there?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid that Mr. H. N. Mukerjee for whom I have great regard, in his anxiety to use facile language and to be eloquent, went off the rails a bit. He referred to the Germans and their country—I am afraid—in some unguarded language. He spoke of the dastardly past of Demag and Krupps and so on and so forth. I wish only to state this, Sir, that if there is any single party in the whole world who know steel production, who know all the details about it and who are acknowledged experts in the field. I would

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

say unhesitatingly that Demag and Krupps are entitled to claim that distinction. In our own country, in the State from which I come, Demags have been mainly responsible for the setting up of the plant of the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works. I have no hesitation in my mind that the German technical assistance shall be a great benefit and blessing to India.

Shri T. N. Singh: What was the consultation fee in their case?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is another point.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether this was the very combine of firms whose help was sought by the Pakistan Government for investigating the desirability of opening a project in their own country.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member is quite right. My hon. Friend, Mr. T. N. Singh has asked why one single man should have been sent for negotiations. I do not know what exactly were his misgivings but I can say that throughout these negotiations our Ambassador in Germany was also associated with Shri Chanda, Secretary, Ministry of Production.

Shri T. N. Singh: I wanted to know why a team of experts and engineers was not sent.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is a matter of policy. Sometimes we have got to do things quickly.

Dr. Jaisoorya (Medak): Would the hon. Minister tell us the technical qualification of the gentleman who went to Germany?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That does not require so much of technical qualification. It requires general qualifications.

If the hon. Members will bear with me for a minute I would go further and say that the criticism that complete freedom was given for the official who went from here is based on wrong information.

Shri T. N. Singh: Within certain limits there was a freedom.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I want to take the House into confidence and say that at every stage the Government were in close touch with the negotiations that were being carried on in Germany from stage to stage. They were being informed and the Cabinet also used to meet to consider the progress that had been made and also went into the merits and demerits of any particular proposal and it was only after definite instructions from this end that the officer concluded the argument. The statement made by my hon. friend, that the preliminary agreement was signed at Bombay is not correct.

Shri T. N. Singh: Had the Cabinet considered the preliminary agreement in detail before it was signed. That is my point.

Shri K. C. Reddy: All the main heads of the agreement,—the substance of them was before the Government and the Cabinet had given its closest attention to all those particular heads. I should not like to miss this opportunity......

Shri T N. Singh: Our experience of previous phraseology is not very happy.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The Government on its part is satisfied with the very admirable way in which these negotiations were carried on in Germany. The Government have assured themselves that the best possible agreement has been secured. The detailed agreement has yet to be finalised. The German team is coming here by the end of September and the final agreement is going to be signed in this country.

Shri T. N. Singh asked one or two questions about the management and the Board of Directors. It has been clearly pointed out that the representation of the German combine on the

Board of Directors will be proportionate to the investment that they would ultimately make. On calculation you will find that out of 72 crores.........

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): What items of consultation will be included in the fee of Rupees two crores and ten lakhs?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I will answer that point later . Mr. T. N. Singh asked what proportion they will have on the Board of Directors. The answer is simple. Their representation on the Board of Directors will be in their proportion to their investment. If their investment is negligible they will not be entitled to even one seat out of nine or ten. No change will be made regarding that point. It is quite simple and clear. If they invest, say, about nine crores as we expect, then out of seven or eight members on the Board of Directors they can claim one place on the Board.

Shri T. N. Singh: Your preliminary agreement says that there shall be representation. What will be the number of representatives? That will have to be decided according to the capital invested. But it will be found —take it from me—when lawyers are consulted, that there must be one representative, whatever the investment. That is what I am saying.

Shri K. C. Reddy: This is the relevant sentence from the statement that I made on the floor of this House with regard to the point that Mr. Singh has been raising: "The managing company will be vested in a Board in which the Government and the combine will have representation proportionate to their respective investments".

Shri T. N. Singh: Look at the phraseology of the agreement.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It has been stated clearly and hon. Mr. Singh need not have any doubts about that point.

Then Mr. Singh asked whether we have made up our minds to place the orders with the German firm for our plant. We have not made up our minds at all. Our mind is open and I have stated in the statement that I have made on the floor of the House, that there will be global tenders and only on a competitive basis any particular tender will be accepted keeping certain essential factors in view, namely, quality, time of delivery, so on and so forth. But it is anticipated that the Germans have efficiency in this field, and it is expected that it may be possible to purchase a good part of the plant if not the major part of the plant from the Germans and if it materializes, as we hope it might materialize, then, their investment will be in proportion to the value of the plant that will ultimately be supplied to us by them. Mr. Singh asked what is the proportion. I would like to say that, with regard to that, the formula is this: if the value of the orders is up to the equivalent of the first 20 million dollars, then the German investment will be 25 per cent. of it. Up to the equivalent of the second 20 million dollars, it will be 30 per cent. In excess of 40 million dollars it will be 33-1/3 per cent. subject to a ceiling of 20 million dollars. That is the formula which we have embodied in the agreement with regard to the investment.

Then, Sir, reference has been made to the political aspect of the agreement. I do not think this is the occasion for me to enter into and rebut the points that have been made by my friend Mr. Hiren Mukerjee. Some hon. Members raised: supposing something happens tomorrow, supposing East Germany combines with West Germany and another point that was made— that West Germany is practi-

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cally a stooge or tool in the hands of America and so on and so forth: we cannot go meticulously into doubts or apprehensions of this kind, and I will not therefore waste the time of the House by answering them much as I would like to. Someone said: "supposing a war breaks out—political conditions are so very uncertain". Well, political conditions are so uncertain everywhere, not only in the continent of Europe—East Germany or West Germany—political conditions are uncertain over the whole world and anything may happen any time in any part of the world. So, on that score we should not hold up our programmes; on that score we should not hesitate to accept the best thing that comes along. We have to view these problems from that perspective, instead of worrying ourselves by imaginary apprehensions, or even apprehensions for which they may be some basis, because we have to take some risk in these matters if we are to do anything worthwhile in a satisfactory way.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask one question of the hon. Minister? Has Government made a comparative examination of the cost to the country as between the result of the agreement with Krupp-Demag and the expansion of our existing steel plants especially when we find that a one-million ton steel plant could be set up at half the cost of Rs. 35 crores or so and we could make a real good saving.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I was about to take that point when the hon. member just inerrupted me.

He referred to a speech that had been made by Mr. Tata I do not know the exact language used by Mr. Tata in his address. I think he has been quoted by someone else. I do not know what he has said. Assuming that what has been quoted is correct, I would like to mention the following for the information of the House.

Tatas, ISCO and Mysore Steel Company, the three units have all expansion programmes in their hands. These companies will require about Rs. 72 crores for their expansion programme: Rs. 33 crores for Tisco; ISCO, first stage Rs. 5 crores and Rs. 31 crores second stage and Mysore Iron and Steel Rs. 3 crores. This expansion programme will be completed as I have already indicated by the year 1957. But what will be the result—equivalent in terms of increase of production? The production in 1952 in all these three plants is about 1,100,000 tons. In 1957 when all these expansion programmes would have been implemented the production will be 1,650,000 tons a nett addition of 500,000 tons, or a little more over the present production. I ask the hon. member if Rs. 72 crores were required for expanding the existing plants resulting only in an increased production of 500 or 600 thousand tons, whether increased production of 500 thousand tons of steel, for Rs. 72, crores, at the present high cost, would not be an economic proposition or not.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask a counter-question of the hon. Minister. If that be so, what are the calculations on the basis of which we are expecting this Rs. 72 crores Indo-German combination to produce in four years' time half a million tons, or something like that.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I could not quite follow the hon. member.

Dr. Jaisoorya: What is the installed capacity—1 million or half a million?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Half a million tons capacity to begin with to go up to one million in due course.

Dr. Jaisoorya: Half a million for Rs. 72 crores—don't you think this is below the optimum?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Rs. 72 crores is now the estimate that has been made for putting up a half million ton plant, but if we go up to 1 million ton capacity, it is on the cards that the capital investment will be proportionately less. Possibly—no estimate has yet been made—an addition of Rs. 40 crores or Rs. 45 crores may result in a 1 million ton capacity plant. So, the argument that has been put forward by my hon. friend, has no basis whatsoever.

Dr. Jaisoorya: You have not understood my question: Are you aware that half a million ton is below optimum plant?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Opinions may differ on that point. It may be safely assumed that half a million ton capacity plant is a good enough unit, even from the economic point of view. Let it not be forgotten that all the existing units in our country began with much less capacity. Bhadravati started with 25,000 tons which is now stepped up to 1 lakh tons. What was the production with which Tata started; what was the production with which ISCO started? We must keep realities in mind and not be carried away by abstract considerations.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You could increase production in a country like ours. It is necessary and absolutely imperative to produce up to installed capacity, or at least up to the optimum capacity. You do not do so for reasons which we do not appreciate at all.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The intention of the Government also is to instal a plant of one million or two million ton capacity, but we have to cut the cloth according to the length and we have got to see our resources. We have got to see what technical men we have and there are so many other factors. It is all very well to say that we should start steel plants in this country, but how is the wish to be translated into reality. The circumstances under which we are working and the facilities that are available are the aspects which the administration has got to take into account.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: We wish to change the present realities.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I don't think I need take the time of the House to refer to the various observations made by three or four hon. Members regarding the site where the plant has to be located. Government are fully aware of the claims and counterclaims and the suitability or otherwise of the various sites. Various technical committees have gone into this question and the latest opinion of the Technical Commission is also available to the Government. I can only say at this stage that the economics of supply and distribution will be kept in mind by the Government before finally deciding as to what should be the site where the new plant has to be located. I cannot go into the details of that controversy, but I can give the assurance once again on behalf of the Government that after the German representatives come here by about the end of this month and give their technical opinion, Government will finally decide as to where this plant should be located. It is not as if Government has absolved themselves of any responsibility in this matter. No doubt the advice of the German representatives will be taken, but Government will ultimately be the body that will take the final decision.

I am glad that this debate came up before the House and I hope I have been able to clear certain doubts. Mr. Singh had made the observation that my previous statement was sketchy, but now I want to assure the House that at the earliest possible date, the agreement that has been entered into

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between the German combine and our Government will be made available to the House and every opportunity will be taken to take the House into confidence with regard to this matter on all essential points. I hope the House will be satisfied with the agreement that has been entered into with the German combine, and will give its blessings and also wish godspeed for this project.

Mr. Chairman: The House will stand adjourned till 4-15 P.M.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Four of the Clock.

The House re-assembled at a Quarter Past Four of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1953-54—*Contd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the discussion on the Demands for Grants. Mr. Gurupadaswamy. Has he changed his seat?

Shri Kidwai: He wanted to avoid your eye.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: In the morning I was just stating that the decision of the Government to import..........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already taken three minutes.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: No, Sir. The decision of the Government to import sugar is a very unfortunate one. I was stating in the morning some of the reasons given by Mr. Kidwai on the last occasion for the fall in production of sugar during 1952-53 I want to analyse the reasons and show whether they are tenable or not.

The first reason given by him was that there was decrease in the production of sugarcane by about 5 per cent.......

Shri Kidwai: I do not remember to have said this.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: That is the statement made on the floor of the House. I do not know whether he is disputing his own statement. If he apparently means that there has been decrease in the production of sugarcane I, want to ask him what were the reasons for the decrease of cultivation of sugarcane. If the reasons are floods, natural calamities, I may draw his attention to the fact that in certain areas like Punjab and other places, conditions this year are far better than the conditions which were prevailing last year. So there is no reason to say that the sugarcane production has decreased. Or it may be due to lack of enthusiasm or incentive in the sugarcane growers because the prices that they have been getting have been too low. They might have thought of growing some other crop than the sugarcane crop. That may be the reason but the solution lies with the Ministry. They should have taken proper measures to instil enthusiasm in the agriculturists and not allowed the acreage to fall. But no measure has been taken by the Government to prevent decrease in the acreage of sugarcane.

The Food Minister said that there was a diversion of certain percentage of sugarcane to the manufacture of jaggery. The reason for this diversion can be attributed to the fact that the price of jaggery was a little bit higher and the cultivators thought of producing jaggery instead of producing sugar. But I want to ask him whether the production of jaggery in the country was insufficient? Had he not got sufficient stock to meet the local demand? What were the reasons for the rise of price of jaggery if there had been sufficient demand for jaggery? If there had been diversion of sugarcane to the manufacture of jaggery, I want to know why there has not been sufficient decrease in demand for sugar. It is quite logical to expect that when there is excess of jaggery production there should be some decrease in the demnad for sugar though not proportionately.

Shri Kidwai: Sir, it is incorrect to misquote me and base the argument on that. I had said that the jaggery production was lower by six lakh tons.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am not quoting you.

Shri Kidwai: You are misquoting me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is on record.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am quoting from 'Commerce'.

Shri Kidwai: You can quote the journal.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it a journal published on the authority of the Government?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: No. Sir. It is '*Commerce*' dated the 15th August, from Bombay.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon Member may certainly refer to any journal but to say that the hon. Minister said so is not correct.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Then, there is an observation in certain quarters that due to paucity of wagons the price of sugar has gone up. Because there were not sufficient wagon facilities to collect sugar from the factories and distribute it in the various areas the price of sugar has gone up. If that is one of the real reasons for the rise in sugar price then I want to know why there was not previous consultation or co-operation between the two Ministries concerned.

Shri Kidwai: Again you are quoting me.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am not quoting you here. I am only saying that there has been statement in certain quarters that the rise in sugar prices is due to paucity of wagons. If that is one of the reasons I want to know why there has not been sufficient co-operation between the two Ministries concerned. After all sugar is an essential article of consumption and all measures should be taken to see that this important commodity is fairly distributed in all parts of the land. So one part of the Government has obviously failed to co-operate with the other part of the Government. This sort of attitude between the two limbs of the Government is really absurd.

Further there is one more important aspect of this question, *viz.*, price. I want to focus the attention of the House on the fact that the price of sugar is rather high because of too much tax on sugar. Now for every ounce of sugar that one eats the consumer in India has to pay one pie as tax. When compared to the total price the percentage of tax collected by the Government comes to 21. But the incidence of the tax is mainly borne by the consumers. Today, the sugar barons are not co-operating with the Government. On the other hand, Government is playing into the hands of the sugar barons. There seems to be an unholy wedlock between the sugar interests and the Government. The proper thing would have been to ask the sugar barons to cut down the percentage of profit.

Shri Kidwai: What is the percentage?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: About 10 per cent. I do not know why we have not asked the sugar barons to cut down the rate of profit. Why should we allow this rate of profit? Till today the sugar industrialists have failed to re-equip or modernise the industry. They have not fulfilled the expectations of the country. They have not co-operated with the

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

Government. It is very necessary that the Government should change its policy immediately with regard to the rate of profit......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. He took three minutes in the morning and he has now taken more than ten minutes. He must resume his seat.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ferozepur—Ludhiana): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand with all the emphasis at my command......

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West *cum* Rae Bareli Distt.—East):......and knowledge.

Sardar Lal Singh: Government propose to import by the middle of December about 1 lakh tons of sugar. The sugar factories are going to start manufacturing sugar in the course of the next forty-five days or so, and there is said to be enough sugar in stock at present for several months to come.

Shri Kidwai: In stock or in short?

Sardar Lal Singh: Therefore, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is that he may kindly wait for some more time before actually importing sugar, so that he may realise or appreciate the correct position as it would be by the middle of December. The very idea of import of sugar is repugnant to me......

Shri Kidwai: Of course.

Sardar Lal Singh:......as it should be to the self-respect of any Indian, because firstly, India can produce any quantity of sugar that it needs; secondly, we have not got surplus funds to waste; thirdly, this demon of unemployment is staring us in the face, and the magnitude of unemployment is so vast that it is necessary for us to explore every avenue of employment and the import of 2 lakh tons of sugar at a cost of some Rs. 15 crores would mean depriving lots of people of this source of employment.

A few days ago, in reply to a question as to how and where the five lakh tons of sugar, that was supposed to be surplus, had disappeared, the hon. Minister had reasoned out something like this:—

> "Because the sugar prices were low, and *gur* prices were high, there was more consumption of sugar, and this led to the shortage of sugar and hence the necessity for importing sugar."

If this analysis of the Government is correct, then I must warn them that we may expect a repetition of this experience in a more severe form this year. On September 2nd, a meeting was called by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture where the representatives of the States, sugar mills, canegrowers and consumers were present. The Bihar and U. P. Government representatives, as also the sugar mill representatives, apprehended a 25 per cent. reduction in the area under cane and corresponding reduction in the production. We are receiving more or less the same kind of report from other States, so that we can be certain that the production this year is going to be much less than that of last year. Last year itself we had a decrease of about 2½ lakh or 3 lakh tons of sugar from the figure of the previous year. That being so, we can expect a serious shortage of sugar, because it is natural that if the production is low, the price of *gur* must be high; and if the price of *gur* is high and the price of sugar is low, then there will be greater consumption of sugar, and when there is greater consumption of sugar, there would be naturally a shortage of sugar and India will have either to import—not 2 lakh tons but perhaps 4 lakh tons,—or there will be black-market in sugar and we may have to undergo the bitter experience of sugar shortage, of 1949 and naturally it would be only the dealers and the millowners who will benefit, and not the consumer or the grower.

It is alleged that sugar is being imported in order to cheapen Indian sugar. It is not sufficiently realised that the price of sugar in other countries is low because of the abnormally heavy yield of sugarcane in those countries. In some countries, the yield per acre is 300 per cent. or 500 per cent. higher than that in India. The second reason is the existence of a highly developed cane bye-product industry, whereby they are able to take care of all waste material of sugarcane like leaves, bagasse etc. for the manufacture of cardboard, insulating material and other types of manufactures like chemicals. The third reason is the low Government tax in those countries. These are the three causes which contribute to the cheapness of sugar production there. Now, I ask: is the Indian cultivator responsible for the low yield? Is he responsible for the high Government taxes? Is he responsible for the absence of a cane bye-product industry? Is he responsible for sufficient researches not having been carried out to bring Indian cane cultivation to the standard of other countries? In spite of these drawbacks, the Indian cane cultivator suffers from, I submit that the sugar price in India is not high as compared with other articles or even other agricultural commodities. For instance, on the basis of the Gaya market, the price index in the case of sugar is the lowest of all, being only ·355 as against 523 for rice; 672 for wheat; 799 for gram; and 522 for combined commodities, so that you can see that the price of sugar in India is comparatively the lowest.

Lastly, if the price has got to be reduced, then it should not be the poor cultivator alone who should be strangled or who should be made to suffer, but all must share in the sacrifice. Government alone charges about 18 per cent. in the form of excise and cess which comes to about Rs. 5 per maund. Then again, there are other underhand methods whereby the cultivator is being robbed. For instance, our Government allows only four annas per maund for molasses which on the basis of sugar content is worth Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 a maund and Government uses all this molasses for power alcohol.

Shri Frank Anthony: On a point of order. Can an hon. Member refer to Government methods as "underhand methods"?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: He did not say it with reference to the Government. He refers to others.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are expressions which are in the margin.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): And Mr. Anthony is raising the point of order.

Sardar Lal Singh: I have not heard what the hon. Member said. Only a few days ago it was suggested that in fixing the price of cane, the cost of production may be taken into account. The case of a Government farm was cited and that was the Government farm at Pusa. It was said that the cost was only Rs. 1-1-0 per maund of cane but upon scrutiny it was found that (a) no rent for the land was included which is normally about Rs. 50 in Punjab, (b) irrigation charges were calculated at Rs. 25 per acre, although the Bihar Government charges Rs. 60 per acre. (c) the carriage of cane had been calculated at 1½ annas per mile for a distance of seven miles or so, which is preposterously low, as the canegrower has to pay a much higher charge. (d) no supervision charge, or depreciation or interest were included in the cost. I would beg the hon. Minister to satisfy himself these statements of mine are not correct. If all these charges are included, then the cost will easily go up to Rs. 1-8-0.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His time is over. He must resume his seat.

Shri Kidwai: He has not yet come to the point. We were discussing cane prices.

Sardar Lal Singh: I would invite the hon. Minister's attention to an article that appeared in yesterday's *Statesman.* The heading of that article is: "GIGANTIC PLAN FOR RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE LAUNCHED". Russian Government have decided not only to increase prices of crops but also to reduce the tax by one-half in the case of agriculture as they feel that the only way to achieve the target of increased production is to give price incentive to the farmer. I would beg of the hon. Minister to take into consideration the viewpoint of the agriculturist.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I do not pretend to have any expert knowledge of this matter, but I will tell you why I am speaking. When I got this book *Supplementary Demands for Grants* and started reading it, the notes and explanations given therein were so curious to read that I was tempted to make a few remarks. Here under two heads, that is Demand No. 47 and Demand No. 125, money is asked for sugar with regard to three items. Firstly, compensation to sugar factories for loss on account of reduction in controlled prices. This is according to Government's decision taken in December 1952. This was voted last year, and as the entire amount was not spent it is a carry-over from last year.

Then again, Government admitted last year that there was a surplus of sugar and, "to relieve the pressure of stocks"—that is the language used here in the note—Government decided to allow sugar producers to export to the extent of 2 lakh tons and to give a subsidy of Rs. 2 per maund.

Then the third demand is under Demand No. 125; money is asked for importing 2 lakh tons of sugar.

I do not understand, I am baffled because. I do not understand, the rationale behind this. If it had covered different periods I could have understood it. The decision took place in December 1952 and the period under review is January to June 1953. Government in their own note say under Demand No. 125 that in this period the actual take-off of sugar was more than what it was last year; it was 8·22 lakh tons as against 5·69 lakh tons. They also say at another place that the actual amount exported was a little over 6,000 tons.

Therefore I fail to understand why for the same period the same amount of sugar is imported, money is asked for importing it, and money is again asked for exporting the same amount, with a subsidy. What is the rationale behind this.? An ordinary lay person like me does not understand it. (*Interruption*).

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: You will please reply when your time comes.

Shri Kidwai: A lay person will have to understand.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I have said I am very ignorant in this matter. But it looks like a jigsaw puzzle, it is a jugglery with figures. Who are the experts, who are the statistician's of the Government, under whose advice this was done?

We are told that this import is sought in order to put pressure on the sugar producers who are trying to raise the price of sugar. If that is so we sympathise with the objective. That means you are very keen to look after the interests of the consumer. But I would like to ask a question. Some time back the sugarcane price was reduced from Rs. 1-12 to Rs. 1-5-0 but the price of suger remained at Rs. 30-12. The price of sugarcane was cut down by 25 per cent, but the price of sugar remained the same. To whom did the twenty crores of rupees go? Did the consumers have the benefit to any extent? Government did not bother when the 20 crores went to the producers as extra profit, but when the Government estimated that the sugar producers may have a loss—they estimated a supposed loss—we were asked to vote an amount to make Government their loss. But it is a well known fact that during this period not only did they export very little, but the sugar was sold here at a very good price in the so called open market or black market, and they made a profit by it.

In spite of it the Government have come before us to ask for money so that they can be compensated. Compensate whom, and what for? That is the question I would like to ask of the hon. Minister. What is the rationale behind the whole thing? Sometimes we are told there is over-production, sometimes we are told there is under-production. Sometimes we are told there is hoarding, sometimes it is said that Indians have become (what shall I say?) very perverse and they are eating more sugar and accordingly the Government policies change overnight. We are totally bewildered.

The hon. Member who preceded me, Sardar Lal Singh, was telling us how by importing sugar we are injuring the employment position in India. If the import is for a limited purpose and period, just to put pressure on the producers, I can understand. But it is indeed a sad commentary in the Government policy that in an industry where we can be self-sufficient, where we can be not only self-sufficient but can even export, the Government cannot control production by means other than allowing imports thus reducing local production and local scope for employment. We are suffering from under-employment and unemployment. Let the sugar industry develop. Let the by-products go along with it. In that way we can give employment to our people and we can be self-sufficient in this commodity.

Sir, I do not want to take very much time. As I said, I am not an expert. But when such figures are given to us and when such explanations are advanced, I consider it highly —if I may be allowed to use that expression—impudent on the part of the Government to come before the House with such figures and such explanations. It is a policy? I cannot even describe it as a hand-to-mouth policy, because the hand does not go even up to the mouth. Perhaps it could be described as a hand in glove policy! It is no policy.

My point is we should not grant such Demands. It is an insult to the House to expect that it should grant such Demands when it is not even properly explained, when there is no rationale and when there is no consistency behind such a policy.

Shri Frank Athony: My cut motion refers not to sugar but to the tightening of the quality control of vanaspati. I should be very brief in my remarks, to come as a relief to the Food Minister.

I feel that Government measures and endeavours to tighten quality control with regard to vanaspati are all in the right direction. Some of my friends may not agree, but vanaspati is not only increasingly used but has become the national cooking medium of the country.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Disastrous to the country.

Shri Frank Anthony: Well, I am not going into a controversy. I know my hon. friend, the interruptor is one who at one time carried on almost a crusade against vanaspati. I have nothing against it.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): Even today.

Shri Frank Anthony: But I would submit—I do not know, between the Ministers who are talking amongst themselves, whose responsibility it is—but I would submit, Sir, that while there has been some allotment in respect of research, it has been my humble feeling that not adequate research has been done with regard to vanaspati. I want research to be conducted not because I want any obstacle to be placed in the way of vanaspati but in order that this national cooking medium should now become of the maximum use and have the maximum nutritious value for the consumer.

[Shri Frank Anthony]

Interlinked with this question of quality control is the aspect of price control. I want to ask the Food Minister whether Government is doing anything to control the rise in the price of the vanaspati. Why is it that the prices of vanaspati have doubled in the last few years? Is the Government, while it is controlling quality, doing anything to control undue profiteering with regard to this?

My last point is this. Apparently, Government's action has been taken as a result of the recommendation of the Ghee Adulteration Committee. Government seems to be stampeded into concentrating all its attention into preventing vanaspati being used as an adulterant with regard to ghee. So far as that particular facet is concerned, it is all to the good. But, today, although my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will not agree with me, pure ghee is a myth. There is no such thing as pure ghee in this country.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: On account of the vanaspati policy.

Shri Frank Anthony: That is where I join issue with my crusader friends. Vanaspati is one of the smallest elements which go into the adulteration of ghee.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Ninety percent of the adulteration is due to vanaspati. This is the Government report.

Shri Frank Anthony: I have also got a Government report here. This is the report published in 1947. It suggests that vanaspati is one of the smaller adulterants of ghee. In any case, it is a refined and absolutely innocuous adulterant. The major adulterants are—this would horrify my hon. friend's susceptibilities—tallow not only of diseased but of dead animals and python fat, unrefined oils, crude vegetable oils which are positively dangerous to health. Here it is stated:

> "Un-refined oils like cotton seed, sesamum, niger mahua, etc, are used for the purpose of adulteration in the liquid condition. Tallow is even now used as an adulterant in parts of Madras, Bengal, Orissa and Assam. Nepali ghee imported into up-country markets in the U. P. and Bihar is said to be adulterated with python fat."

I am wondering what is going to happen to the people who are eating tortoise eggs fried in python fat, and what kind of people they are going to produce. I would say to the Government that, while paying all attention to my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and seeing that vanaspati is not used as an adulterant, equal if not greater care should be taken to see that other commodities, dangerous to health, tallow and python fat and all these things are not used as adulterants of ghee.

One last word. I for one believe that all your stamps and seals, even your Agmark stamps are no guarantee of purity. A little time ago I was travelling with a head of a department; I do not think I would be called upon to divulge the name. I told him that after the advent of this python product, I had given up the eating of ghee. I asked, what about the Agmark ghee. He smiled rather cynically and said what usually happens is this. If the Inspector is dishonest, the ghee is adulterated. Even if he is honest, he is given a sample and he inspects and that is all right. After he has given his certificate, the manufacturer then adulterates *ad lib* and Government seal is put on it. To this particular aspect, the other obnoxious adulterants I ask the Government to pay a little more attention.

Shri T. N. Singh: I would, Sir, with your permission, confine myself to the State-trading aspect, of the whole question. It normally comes under Demand No. 125. But, these two have been taken together and you have kindly permitted State trading to be discussed along with the Demand. We find under Capital outlay that the Government intend to spend Rs. 7,25,00,000. That is the gross expenditure mentioned under head K. 1, Supplementary Demand I for Capital outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Now, it is one of the accepted principles of State trading, that when the Government enters this field, the guiding principle will be no profit, no loss. The return expected is 8 crores according to the foot note here. That means, already a 10 per cent .profit has been calculated on this account. That is my first objection. I think this is wrong. It should not have been done. It goes against the very principle on which Government launches on State trading schemes. If they expect a return of 8 crores, it gives a margin of 75 lakhs, it comes to a 10 per cent. return, or more than 10 per cent. rather, on the money invested. This sum should rather have been utilised for bringing the prices down. This is what I feel. It goes against the principle accepted by the House and by the Government and it should not have been done.

Shri Kidwai: What should not have been done?

Shri T. N. Singh: The margin of 10 .per cent. that has been calculated here.

Then. Sir, about State trading in sugar, it is rather a novel field in which Government have entered. I do not know how far this move can be justified. We are told,—I do not know: the hon. Minister will correct me—but stories have been current of all sorts—that at first it was desired to import this sugar on private account......

Shri Kidwai: That is true.

Shri T. N. Singh..... that then, the policy was changed and it was decided to have it on Government account.

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shri T. N. Singh: You will get your own opportunity to reply to this. I am only narrating what the facts are. I believe that I am stating the truth. Then, the latest position that is being rumoured about is that though it is said to be on Government account, the handling of this imported sugar will be done by private parties.

Shri Kidwai: That is wrong.

Shri T. N. Singh: I welcome that denial, because, the whole purpose of reverting to the old policy will be nullified if in the name of Government account, other parties come in as intermediaries. About distribution itself, it is stated in the foot note, first. State Governments, second, co-operative societies and third, private parties. I want to be very clear on the extent to which these three agencies will be utilised for this purpose. Because, if it is really going to be State-trading and the States are going to handle it, where is the guarantee that the States will not in turn hand it over to private agencies? That is number one. I want to know whether the Government have made their policy clear on this point to the States so far or not. Because, in the mean time, the States may have entered into commitments......

Some Hon. Members: That has been done.

Shri T. N. Singh:... ..and that would land the Central Government and ourselves in difficulties. We do not want to be blamed for a policy which we never intended to follow. I wish that the Central Government had made this clear right here and now so that this thing may not arise in the States later on. What will be the share of the co-operative societies? What action will be taken to see that the genuine co-operative societies which have been doing multi-purpose or marketing work are given this work and not co-operative societies formed transitorily for this specific purpose? It has to be looked into whether specific instructions are being issued on that account or not. What will be the share of the private agencies which come last, but who may probably get the lion's share? What about the sugar monopoly syndicates,

[Shri T. N. Singh]

etc. who may get into it, and handle this thing. I personally feel that somehow—it is unfortunate; I do not want to blame anybody—there have been miscalculations. The hon. Lady Member from Delhi, only a short while ago stated that last year we exported 2 lakh tons of sugar.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We did not export.

Shri Kidwai: I accept that.

Shri T. N. Singh: Whatever it is, I am only repeating; the hon. Member must have got that from somewhere. Something was done......

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Permit was given.

Shri T. N. Singh: Whatever was exported actually, the policy of exporting sugar was accepted because it was stated that we are surplus in sugar. Now, the season is almost finished and now we realise that we are short of sugar and we will have to import. The prices are going up. I want the Government to be warned of the antics of the sugar syndicate and sugar monopolists.

Shri Frank Anthony: Why do you point to Mr. Kilachand?

Shri Kidwai: You find fault that the Government have not handed it over to private parties.

Shri T. N. Singh: I have never objected to such a policy. What I say is this. In 1948, in the presence of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi, these very merchants and manufacturers came to him and solemnly promised that if sugar was decontrolled, prices will not go up.

Prices went up. Not only that. Sugar was exported outside India to our neighbouring countries, smuggled out. And what did we find? Ganganath reported on it. He has written there. "There were suspiciously large movements of wagons from the sugar factories to the borders". This is what he has stated. Then again sugar is surplus. We are stampeded into accepting that position. All right, you export. Then the price of the sugar elsewhere is supposed to be higher than ours. Then again we are stampeded. We are told prices are going up. Sugar must be brought from outside in order to keep down the prices. Sugar is being brought from outside. We were supposed to compete with outside sugar. Now we are getting sugar from outside, and we are paying for it. Government is financing it, and ultimately again the private merchant is going to handle it. Who will handle it? He who has experience of the sugar trade, the sugar syndicate, the sugar mill owner, the manufacturer, the dealer. It is he who will handle it in the ultimate analysis. That is the warning that I want to give.

After all, I do not blame anybody. You may miscalculate. There may be figures wrong, or we may accept the advice of the sugar manufacturers that sugar in the country is surplus or that there is a deficit. Ultimately also we will be bamboozled by the threat that they hold out in U. P. and Bihar that if they do not lower the cane price, they will shift the mills south. Are we going to blackmail the entire peasantry of 60 millions or so, by saying: "If you do not behave, if you do not lower the price, we will shift." But, when the prices were raised by the sugar manufacturers, nobody said: "The State will take over." We have not said that. But to the poor peasants in U. P. immediately the threat is held out. I am sorry to say that even our hon. Minister, when making a speech that day, unfortunately referred to this point and said: "Yes, the position is such that the mills will be justified in shifting". And here among ourselves unfortunately provincialism works up, and one province tries to run down the other, and therefore: "Yes, shift the mills to the south". That is unfortunate.

I will not take any more time. I have said what I had to say. My whole intention in saying all this was: let us follow a policy after full thought and consideration, and see that the right policy is followed.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (सारन व चम्पारन) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मुझे आपने जो इस समय बोलने का मौक़ा दिया, उसके लिये मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं । मैं साफ़ साफ़ यह कह देना चाहता हूं कि हमारे फ़ूड मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो नीति शुगर के सम्बन्ध में बर्त्ती है, उससे हिन्दुस्तान को बहुत घाटा हुआ है । आपकी नीति यह रही कि चीनी की क़ीमत घटा दी जाय ताकि चीनी खाने वाले किसानों को और दूसरे लोगों को सस्ते दाम में चीनी मिले । सरकार ने २७ रुपये की दर से चीनी के दाम ठीक किये और इसी हिसाब से किसानों को क़ीमत दी, लेकिन आज जो सरकार विदेश से चीनी मंगा रही है, उस चीनी के दाम ३१ रुपये चार आने पड़ते हैं, वह चीनी ३१ रुपये ४ आने के भाव बिकती है । ऊख की क़ीमत १ रुपये १२ आने थी जब चीनी की क़ीमत ३१ रुपये चार आने थी, जो बाहर से चीनी मंगा रहे हैं उसकी क़ीमत ३१ रुपये ४ आने पड़ती है, तो ऊख की क़ीमत १ रुपये १२ आने चाहिये, अभी साल नहीं गुजरा, दिसम्बर के महीने में एक क़ानून पास हुआ था कि शायद हम लोग १ रुपया मन मिल वालों को कम्पन्सेशन दें, क्योंकि उन को चीनी के दाम में घाटा पड़ता है और इसीलिये आज एक वर्ष के अन्दर ही हम कहते हैं कि हमारे यहां पर्याप्त चीनी नहीं है और हमको बाहर से चीनी मंगानी पड़ती है ।

5 P.M.

कांग्रेस के किसी कार्यवश में एक व्यापारी के यहां गया, बातचीत चलने लगी, बातचीत के दौरान में उसने कहा कि पंडित जी लाख सरकार क़ानून बनाये, लेकिन कोई भी सरकार हमारी चोरी को बन्द नहीं कर सकती है । मैं किदवई साहब को क्या कहूं, वह भी कांग्रेसी हैं, मैं भी कांग्रेसी हूं और मैं भी जनता के बीच में घूमता हूं और उन से मिलता रहता हूं, मैं जानता हूं कि यह मिल वाले किस तरह से गोलमाल करते हैं यह हमारी बदक़िस्मती है । यह लोग तो इतने चालाक होते हैं कि वह ब्रह्मा तक को छल सकते हैं । बिहार में सरकार ने २७ रुपये मन चीनी का दाम नियत किया तो वहां के हम लोग जो ऊख बोने वाले किसान हैं उनको १ रुपया ५ आना मिलता है जब कि हमको ऊख की कास्ट आफ़ प्रोडक्शन १ रुपया ४ आने पड़ती है और मैं बतलाऊं कि हमें ऊख को मिल तक ले जाने में ४ आने से लेकर ८ आने तक ट्रान्सपोर्ट पर खर्चा आता है, इसके अलावा कटाई-छुलाई पर खर्चा पड़ता है जो कि सब मिला कर क़रीब १ रुपये ८ आने या १० आने के लगभग जा कर हम को पड़ता है जब कि हम को मिलता केवल १ रुपये ५ आने ही हैं । और इसके फलस्वरूप सन् ५१-५२ में हम लोगों ने जितनी चीनी पैदा की थी, सन् ५२-५३ में उससे कम चीनी पैदा हुई है और यह उनके दिये हुये स्टेटमेंट में है कि चीनी की पैदावार कम हुई है । ५१-५२ में १ रुपये १२ आने थी और सन् ५२-५३ में १ रुपये ५ आने मन हो गयी, उसका असर मैं जानता हूं कि शुगर की पैदावार में कमी का होना है, हालांकि सरकार कहती है कि बिहार और यू० पी० में ऊख की खेती कम नहीं हुई है और मैं जानता हूं कि उन को इस तरह की इत्तिला अपने सरकारी नौकरों से मिलती है, लेकिन मैं किदवई साहब को कहना चाहता हूं कि वह मेरे साथ गांवों में चलें, वह भी कांग्रेसमैन हैं और गाधी जी के अनुयायी हैं और मैं भी गांधी जी का अनुयायी हू,

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

मेरे साथ चलें, मैं उनको दिखाऊंगा कि ईख की पैदावार में कमी हुई है या नहीं, महज सरकारी रिपोर्ट्स और स्टेटमेंट्स से उनको ठीक ठीक चीज का पता नहीं लगेगा ।

दूसरी बात वह यह कह देते हैं कि बिहार की चीनी का परसन्टेज ज्यादा पड़ता है और यू० पी० की ईख का परसन्टेज कम पड़ता है। इस सिलसिले में मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि एक हमारे कांग्रेस के नेता हैं, जब उनसे लोगों ने कुछ कहा तो उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि पब्लिक तो अन्धी होती है, जब पब्लिक के वोट लेने का समय आया और नेता साहब को वोट की जरूरत पड़ी और पब्लिक से वोट मांगा, तो उनको जवाब मिला कि हम तो अन्धे हैं, और आंखें मूंद लीं और कहा कि हम आपको कैसे वोट दें ? अरे साहब आखिर ये किसान जो ईख की पैदावार करत हैं यह अपने ही तो आदमी हैं, हम लोग यहां जो कांग्रेस के टिकट पर चुन कर आये हैं, उन्हीं के तो भेजे हुये हैं, हम लोग गांव गांव में घूमते हैं और किसानों से मिलते हैं और उनकी हालत देखते हैं, हम क्या कोई भाड़ झोंकते हैं जो आप हमारी बात नहीं मानते हैं, लेकिन आपका एक सरकारी अफ़सर जो आपको रिपोर्ट लिख कर भेज देता है, तो उस रिपोर्ट को आप मान लेते हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि अगर हम हैं तो आपका राज्य है, अगर हम नहीं रहेंगे, तो आपकी मिनिस्ट्री भी नहीं रहेगी, आपका राज्य नहीं रहेगा, क्योंकि आखिर आप के पीछे हमारी ही तो सामूहिक शक्ति लगी है। इसलिये हमारी बात मानिये और किसानों के हक़ में देखिये, ऊख के बारे में जो सरकार की नीति है, उसमे बहुत घाटा पड़ता है और उसका नतीजा यह होगा कि ऊख की खेती निरन्तर कम होती जायगी। और अन्दाज़ा किया जाता है कि क़रीब ३३ परसेंट ऊख की पैदावार में कमी हो जायगी । मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि ऊख की क़ीमत बढ़ायें ताकि हमारे यहां चीनी की पैदावार बढ़ सके, और यह जो सवा सात करोड़ रुपया चीनी के लिये हमारा बाहर देशों में जाता है, यह रुपया हिन्दुस्तान में रहे, क्योंकि जो सवा सात करोड़ रुपये की चीनी हम बाहर से मंगाते हैं, तो उससे हमारे यहां अनइम्प्लायमेंट ही बढ़ता है । अगर यह रुपया हिन्दुस्तान में रहता और यहां के किसान और मजदूर ऊख की खेती करते तो अनइम्प्लायमेंट भी किसी हद तक दूर होता, लेकिन यह न करके बाहर से चीनी मंगाते हैं और हमारी खेती को मारना चाहते हैं, मैं उन को चेता देना चाहता हूं कि आपकी इस नीति से सफलता नहीं मिलेगी, इस नीति से विफलता ही मिलेगी, यह नीति हमारे आपके लिये घातक है ।

इसके अलावा मैं एक चेतावनी आपको और देना चाहता हूं कि यह जो हमारे विपक्षी लोग बैठे हैं ये सारी बातें गांवों में जा कर कहते हैं और किसानों से मिलते हैं और उन से बात करते हैं, हम लोग भी थोड़े से जो आपके और पंडित जी के अनुयायी हैं, गांवों में घूमते हैं और किसानों के पास जाते हैं और अपने विपक्षियों का मुक़ाबला करते हैं, लेकिन मैं आपसे कह देना चाहता हूं कि आपकी नीति अगर यही रही कि बाहर से चीनी मंगायें और यहां की ऊख की क़ीमत कम रक्खें और किसानों को घटी दें, तो नतीजा यह होगा कि किसान लोग ऊख की खेती करना छोड़ देंगे और यह न समझिये कि आपका कुछ नहीं बिगड़ेगा, हम बहुत घाटे में रहेंगे, क्योंकि हमारे विरोधी लोग किसानों को

हमारे खिलाफ़ भड़कायेंगे, इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि विरोधियों के प्रोपेगेन्डा को विफल करने के लिये आपको किसानों के हित में अपनी नीति निर्धारित करनी चाहिये। मैं उस जगह का रहने वाला हूं जहां पर महात्मा गांधी ने किसानों को जगाया और उनका उद्धार किया और मेरी सरकार से प्रार्थना है कि ऊख की क़ीमत ठीक ठीक रक्खें।

दूसरे मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जब तक बिहार गवर्नमेंट क़ीमत नियत करती थी, तो कभी दो क़ीमत नहीं थीं, १९३७ से लेकर आज से दो साल पहले तक। लेकिन जब सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट आ गई तो उन्होंने दो क़ीमतें कर दीं। भला बतलाइये १ रुपये ३ आने में किसान को क्या पड़ेगा, आप ही सोचिये कि वह ज़िन्दा रहेगा या मर जायगा।

मैं खुद किसान हूं, ऊख की खेती करता हूं, मैं किसानों की तक़लीफ़ को समझ सकता हूं। मैं तो कहता हूं कि ज़रा किदवई साहब भी दो बीघा ज़मीन की खेती कर के देखें कि उस में कितनी तक़लीफ़ होती है। यहां ठंडे में बैठ कर उन को पता नहीं चलेगा, ज़रा खेती तो करें। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कहता हूं कि जिस के पैर में बेवाई नहीं फटती है वह तक़लीफ़ को नहीं जानता है। वह खेती नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन मैं खेती करता हूं और वह भी ऊख की खेती। अतः ऊख की क़ीमत अवश्य बढ़ावें। उत्तर बिहार बाढ़-ग्रस्त भी है। इससे किसानों और मजदूरों का भला होगा।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Gopala Rao.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to say a few words, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister did not tell me that. I have allowed 15 minutes to both the hon. Ministers together.

Shri Kidwai: Together?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I never knew the hon. Minister wanted to intervene in the debate. Anyhow, I will call him later. Inasmuch as people are interested in this, we will sit for 15 minutes more for the day. We will close at 7-30. That is, at 7-15 we will finish with the supplementary demands and take up the Appropriation Bill, or if he wants more time, continue up to 7-20?

Shri Kidwai: This debate will continue up to 7:20?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. I have been calling one hon. member from Uttar Pradesh, another hon. member from Bihar, now one hon. member from Madras and then after that I will call one hon. member from Hyderabad. Then I will call both the Ministers, one after the other.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North): One from Bombay.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Bombay and Madhya Pradesh also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Bombay may be asked to stand out.

Shri Gopala Rao: Exactly ten months ago, in November 1952, we had a thorough discussion as far as this matter—Demand No. 47—was concerned. The price of sugar and of sugarcane and all the allied matters were thoroughly discussed. At that time, Sir, from our side we gave a serious warning as to how this quixotic policy of the hon. Minister would create chaotic conditions and would lead us nowhere. But the hon. Minister did not pay any heed to our warning. But the Government have to take complete responsibility for this muddle today.

I may remind you that on November 19, intervening in the course of the debate, what the hon. Food Minister promised was honey and milk to the consumer. But what has actually happened today. On that day, he said:

"When the sugar crushed from the sugarcane purchased at Rs. 1-5

[Shri Gopala Rao]

> per md. comes to the market, then the prices will go down. Prices are bound to go down even lower than people expect. There will be competition, prices will be lower and the millowners will have to give up a portion of the profit which they are making out of this industry."

This was the promise and perspective of the hon. the Food Minister, Sir. What is the actual position today? Are your expectations materialised in any form? Are you prepared to accept the failure of your policy? All this has ended in a fiasco, stabbing the toiling millions of people and creating havoc to the consumers. The consumers naturally expected cheaper sugar this year. But right from the very beginning, to the great disappointment of the consumers, the price shot up from Rs. 27 to Rs. 35 varying from place to place.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): After April.

Shri Gopala Rao: Please do not intervene. You can have your chance and then you can speak.

An Hon. Member: Especially with your ignorance.

Shri Gopala Rao: Right from the beginning, the consumers, to their great disappointment, have had to buy sugar at abnormal rates. Even a paper like the *Eastern Economist* accepted categorically that factories have earned higher profits than last year, that is to say, when they had to buy sugar at Rs. 1-12-0. They have now earned higher profits after paying only Rs. 1-5-0.

Coming to the position of the consumers, Sir, most of the poor and middle class people have suffered a lot. The prices of sugar are not within the reach of their purchasing capacity. In addition to this, an excise duty of Re. 1 is levied, and they were promised a reduction of Rs. 4 per maund. Not only that. In the course of his speech, the hon. Minister said there was a scope of Rs. 7 reduction per maund due to various reasons. He could not reduce more than Rs. 4 per maund. But ultimately what happened? They have to pay Rs. 7 extra price to the maund compared to last year! This is the fate of the consumers as a result of the hon. Minister's sugar policy. The fate of millions of growers is affected by the reduction of the price of sugarcane from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 1-5-0. Last year the estimated total area under sugarcane was nearly 43 lakh acres and the production was more than 50 million tons. The sugarcane supplied to sugar factories came to 14 million tons. Even if you take isolatedly the loss incurred by the growers in supplying 140 lakh tons of sugarcane to the millowners, it comes to Rs. 17 crores as compared to last year, because for every ton there was a cut of Rs. 12. In this way, the sugarcane growers were actually stabbed just on the eve of the harvest. That is why this year the acreage has dropped. As far as my knowledge goes, in my area—I come from a sugarcane growing area—the cultivators have dropped cultivating 50 per cent. of the area as compared to last year due to this reduction in the sugarcane price. An hon. friend from Uttar Pradesh who spoke before said that there was a considerable reduction in area in U.P. The other day, an hon. member from Bihar was also saying the same thing in regard to Bihar. But the hon. Minister from somewhere brought some figures and he has asserted that the area under sugarcane has increased this year because there is a reduction of Rs. 12 per ton! We are not able to follow his economics, Sir. He is the only person who can explain, if at all there is some meaning in it. This is the reality. I do not know the source of his facts and figures. The other day when an hon. member coming directly from the area said that the area in Bihar under sugarcane has decreased, the Minister said there was no reduction. At the same time, one hon. Member spoke on behalf of the people in that area. He was speaking about what the real position was in U.P. and Bihar. In the same way, in my area also the acreage under sugarcane is reduced to 50 per cent. This is the fate of the sugarcane growers. This is what has happened.

Now, what is the position of the factories? In the price that they have paid for the cane, they have earned Rs. 17 crores profit, and by selling sugar at abnormal rates—at Rs. 5 more per maund—they have earned Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 crores. Not only that. There are some other methods. The recovery is greater this year. Last year it was 9·57 per cent. This year it is more than 10 per cent. Not only that. The hon. Minister knows how they are cheating the poor peasants in other ways. In these various ways, they have earned huge profits this year. As against what the Minister was promising, this is what actually happened.

That is why the mill-owners have no moral justification to demand compensation. I do not know how the hon. Minister dared to come here and say, here is the problem, and we must approve of this Demand No. 47. Compensation for what? The hon. lady Member asked to whom is compensation to be given. Did they sell sugar at reduced prices? They did not sell; they sold it at abnormal prices.

Coming to the last point, the Import policy, I would say it is a suicidal policy. It indicates the impotency of the Government and not its strength. The Government is not able to control the industrialists and set right the corruption within the sugar mills. Moreover, Sir, the rate for imported sugar will be Rs. 30. I wonder how it is possible to control local prices when the imported sugar price is fixed at Rs. 30. I am really unable to follow this economics and I think the hon. Minister will try to explain and let us see how far we will be enlightened.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is coming to the very important portion after 10 minutes are over.

Shri Gopala Rao: The import policy will lead to the collapse of the whole industry, not only the consumers or the growers but the industry as a whole will collapse. There will be unemployment. We are going to spend 15 crores of rupees to import 2 lakhs of tons of sugar. There are in our country 160 factories, 20 millions of agriculturists who were engaged in sugarcane cultivation; there are nearly 2 lakh workers in factories and thousands of technicians.

If we harness this potentiality properly, we need not import a single tola of sugar. The import policy will lead to the collapse of our industry. Therefore drop this import policy; encourage our sugarcane growers; give them reasonable rate of Rs. 1-12-0 per maund, give sugar to the consumer at a reasonable rate taking into consideration the purchasing capacity. We are not opposed to reasonable profit for the industrialists. If they act properly and if they observe the rules properly, we are prepared to allow a reasonable margin of profit to them. If all the interests are guarded then our national industry will reach its height and the problem will be solved. But the hon. Minister's policy will not solve it.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): As I am speaking for the first time on the subject, though I represent an area where the biggest sugar factory is situated, I would like to take this opportunity for paying my tribute to the practical acumen for which the hon. Food Minister is known all over India. Sir, he always reminds me of a sentence, rather a command from our Prime Minister which we see in so many offices here as well as in the States. The command is, 'I am not interested in excuses for delay; I am interested only in a thing done'. I think so far as the food problem is concerned, the hon. Food Minister has more than delivered the goods. But, I have got my own apprehensions that so far as the sugar problem is concerned. I feel, Sir, and I must state that the conscientious people though not directly interested, the public-minded people in my constituency say that so far as

[Shri Heda]

sugar is concerned, the Government has created a mess and I do not know how it will come out of it.

Anyway, coming to the subject, there are four interests so far as the sugar problem is concerned, out of which the first two, the consumer and the sugarcane grower have conflicting interests. In the past, we have seen that the Government tried to help the growers though it was at some pain to the consumer. But that policy succeeded in this way that the production of sugar was increasing. But, so far as the present Minister's handling of the affair is concerned, he has pleased neither the consumer nor the grower. The consumer is not getting sugar at a cheap rate nor is the grower getting an adequate price. I think he should do something in this regard. Firstly, so far as the grower is concerned, he should be given adequate prices. And, in this respect, I will not be revealing a secret if I state here that the Hyderabad State Government had convened a small meeting of the representatives of the different interests and the public. All of us who were there were of the opinion that the present price of Rs. 1/5 should be raised to Rs. 1/8. Not only this. Because in South India the competition factor works, therefore 3 annas above it may be asked to be paid to the sugarcane growers in the South. That was the opinion that we unanimously gave at that meeting. I hope the Hyderabad State Goevrnment has communicated that to the hon. Minister, and from that opinion he can come to the right conclusion.

My own impression is, Sir, that the grower should be asked to take to intensive cultivation and we may adopt a policy that the growers who do not give a yield of about 25 or 30 tons of sugarcane per acre, should be told that they should do intensive cultivation so that the yield may be increased; otherwise we may not accept their sugarcane for crushing in the factories. If something in this way is done, the grower will grow intensively and he will gain more. In this regard, the SISMA formula that was arrived at in the South is very good. It shows that a way can be found out to divide the price of sugar between the growers and the factories rather equitably. The very first sentence of the formula is:

> "The price payable by factories for cane to be calculated on the net amount realised by individual factories from sale of sugar and on the actual recovery obtained by individual factories......"

and then they go on to give the details.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

Sir, this recovery is a very very important factor and it is the agriculturist who should be given the greatest tribute for giving a better recovery and, therefore, he should be given some good portion of it. So far as the sugar factory in my area is concerned, I think, it has given the best recovery and it was to the tune of 10-67 and it is about 25 per cent. more than the recovery in the whole of India. In spite of that the same price was given to the sugarcane grower.

The other two interests, namely the factory and trade, are playing havoc and so many members have dealt with that point and so I would not like to go into all the details. But there should be greater regulation and control over these two interests and you should see that the consumer gets the sugar at the proper price. In this regard, if necessary, the present ration shops should be utilised and the factories should be asked to supply them sugar at some fixed price so that the consumer may be assured of a proper price. These are the things that the Government should take into account.

I think that if there is a steady policy, I am confident, of this in spite of the immediate past, and if the hon. Food Minister will look into the matter, things can be set right. Last year, we were in a position to export sugar. I am quite confident that he will revise the whole thing and he will bring the country again to the same position and if we can export I do not understand why we are not developing our export. Why should we not develop our industry and agriculture and thereby have more profits and particularly at a time when we are facing the greatest problem of unemployment. Therefore, I hope that he would consider all the points and fix the price in such a way that there may be no need of importing sugar in the future. Rather we may be again in a position to export sugar. With this I conclude my remarks.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am intervening in this debate only to answer one or two points which have been made by my friend Mr. Anthony. I must correct his impression that the price of Vanaspati has been doubled recently. I will give the figures from year to year beginning with 1948. In 1948 the per ton price of Vanaspati was Rs. 2,065; in 1949, it was Rs. 2,205; in 1950 it was Rs. 2,415; in 1951, Rs. 2,514 and in 1952, Rs. 2,083. In 1953 up to June 1953 it is Rs. 2,327. The comparison will show that the present prices are lower than in 1950 or 1951. They are slightly higher as compared with last year. That is due to the fact that both the groundnut and groundnut oil prices have gone up. Of course we have taken away the control on prices and these are competitive prices, but as would be seen from this comparison, the increase is not very appreciable if we take the figures so far as these few years are concerned.

My friend also asked us whether there was any research being done and whether efforts were made to see that the Vanaspati products were made more wholesome so far as the health of the people was concerned. I may assure him that we are constantly making researches on this, and as is known to the House, from a reply to questions I gave out as to what we are doing in this respect. We are improving the products and fortifying them with the addition of vitamins and it should certainly be an improvement over what used to be the case.

So far as adulteration is concerned, it is something which we must admit it is very difficult to control. So far, we were afraid of vegetable oil or Vanaspati being used as adulterant with *ghee*. Now we have come to a stage when we are afraid of Vanaspati itself being adulterated with some other stuff. But so far as the Central Government is concerned, Sir, we have taken some steps to see that the Vanaspati that is produced is of fair and pure quality. So far as adulteration is concerned, it is very difficult for us to deal with it. We have tried the agmark and other things but people have defeated us in trying to overcome the regulations and in searching out ways for adulterating *ghee* with other stuffs. We have found it therefore difficult to keep pace with the researches of the adulterants and adulterating people, but both the State Governments and the Central Government try to see that this is reduced to the minimum possible extent. There is a certain health staff in the States who try to check it and we also see by means of our agmark and our marketing organizations that adulteration is reduced; but the extent of adulteration will depend more on the people's will to adulterate, and it is not, in such a big country, possible to check every adulteration that is attempted.

My friend has mentioned one other point. I think he was quoting from the marketing report, that in addition to Vanaspati other adulterants are also being used. That is a fact, Sir, and all that I can say is we will keep in view his remarks so far as adulteration is concerned and see how best we can improve the position.

Shri Kidwai: Sir, there are two or three points that have been made by most of the hon. speakers on the side of the Opposition. First, I shall deal with the point of Mr. Gurupadaswamy. He has complained that the lowering of the price of sugar-cane has caused a decrease in the area of sugar-cane. I hope he will remember the complaints that Sardar Lal Singh has been

[Shri Kidwai]

making every now and then that cane prices are fixed not before the sowing season but at the time of the harvest, and therefore lowering the prices after the *kisan* has cultivated the cane is not fair. The cane prices last year were fixed in September, and they were reduced from Rs. 1/12 to Rs. 1/5. Therefore, whatever the effect of this lowering of prices would be on the next year's crop and not on the crop that was harvested now. I have said again and again in this House and I repeat that actually the cane prices have no effect on the area of the sugarcane cultivation. It depends upon the comparative prices of alternative crops. The other day I mentioned that when the cane prices were raised from Rs. 1-6-0 to Rs. 2, the next year the area of cane came down. And similarly, in 1952, when the cane prices were raised from Rs. 1/10 to Rs. 1/12, it was expected that the area would also go up, but actually in U.P. the area came down from 29,65,000 acres to 26,39,000 acres. Therefore cane prices should be compared with the alternative crops. This year the prices have been fixed.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Was the decision to raise cane price taken at the time of harvest in this case?

Shri Kidwai: Cane prices were announced in September and even if they were raised, the sowing season begins between December and February. Therefore it could not effect the area if the prices are increased four months later. It is therefore that we have decided that from now on, we will announce the price well in advance of the sowing season though it may have some effect on the cane area.

Shri T. N. Singh: In the year 1947-48, when the price of sugar was ten annas, the cane price was Rs. 2 per maund. Today, the sugar price is 14 annas, and the price that Government themselves have fixed is Rs. 1/5 per maund for sugar-cane. Why this disparity, and are there other intermediaries who are trying to come in?

Shri Kidwai: I will come to that later. I said that last year we reduced the price of cane from Rs. 1/12 to Rs. 1/5 and now people have been asking where do we get our figure from. We get our figure from the Bihar Government. We have been getting the figure every year from the Bihar Government. If for one year the House is prepared to accept them as correct, then they should accept as correct the other year's figure also.

The other point that has been raised is that this year we have paid something to sugar factories for the loss that they were expected to suffer and now we are importing sugar because the stock of sugar is not sufficient. Well, the payment was concerned with the production figure of the last year. At the close of last year, we were carrying forward 5 lakh tons, and that sugar was a highly priced sugar. At that price, although much has been said about it, the sugar has not yet reached any factory in India. The *ex*-factory price was Rs. 27, and therefore the prices at the port were between Rs. 33 and Rs. 35. Now, for the new sugar, the *ex*-factory price must be fixed at Rs. 27, and it was found that it will be difficult to dispose of the sugar, and the responsibility for disposing of that sugar was with the Government. Government was bound, according to an agreement entered into years before with the approval of this House, to pay the factory owners a certain amount per maund. That was Rs. 31 in some factories and in some factories where the recovery of loan is there, for instance, in South Bihar, it was Rs. 33 or Rs. 34. Therefore, the prices were brought down and Government had to pay them and to enable the Government to pay them, one rupee in the excise duty was increased. This is in regard to the first demand.

The other demand is about the import of sugar. Now, the hon. Member Mr. Gurupadaswamy had quoted some figures of consumption in the first five months of the last year and the first few months—the same months—of this year and found that this year we had to release 3 lakh tons more than last year. Now, where has the sugar gone? If the sugar is hoarded, then there was one way of checking it—to control the distribution of sugar, but that would have been playing into the hands of hoarders who would have got very high prices in the black market. The other way was to make more and more sugar available so that if anybody has hoarded he would not get the advantage of it and will have to sell it at lower prices than he had paid to the factory. The best way was to import sugar. Sugar prices were falling outside India and we decided to import two lakh tons of sugar . That sugar would be made available at port towns at prices at which sugar from the Northern Indian factories would have been sold there at controlled prices. If port towns which are the largest consumers of sugar are fed by imported sugar, the prices are bound to come down in the upcountry. Even if they do not, we can bring imported sugar in the North Indian market and sell it at the prices at which Indian manufactured sugar would have been sold and thus the prices could be controlled.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह: इस समय मिलों के पास कै लाख टन चीनी पड़ी हुई है ?

Shri Kidwai: मैं अभी बतलाऊंगा ।
A friend has questioned the advisability of our changing our mind that instead of allowing the private importers to import sugar, Government is importing it. Hon. members are aware that to enable import from outside the import duty on sugar was almost halved, or even less than half was fixed. Later on it was found that sugar prices in foreign countries started going down. When it was first announced that private importers would be allowed to import sugar, merchants started making enquiries all over the exporting countries with the result that prices started rising and the quotation that we had received earlier, for instance, from Formosa, of £39, went up to £43. It was thought that if there was only one importer he would be able to manipulate the prices. Therefore, we changed our mind and we have actually discovered that the British sugar which always gets a higher price than Formosa sugar and which was first quoted at £42 per ton has come down to £39. 15s. Therefore the first thing that we did by taking over the import is to lower the foreign market prices.

The second thing is that had the private importer been allowed to import sugar at port town after paying the duty he would get it at Rs. 25 per maund. Sugar from northern India is available in Bombay at a little over Rs. 30 per maund. Then all this profit of Rs. 5 per maund would have gone to the private importer. Well, if Government imports, Government could sell it at Bombay at Rs. 31 and if necessary it can bring that sugar to Meerut and sell it at Rs. 27/4, the price calculated to be fair price there. Therefore, Government took over the import from private importers and decided to import themselves. I think this should not have been objected to, in view of the fact that there was a very big margin between the landed cost and the sale price in Bombay, Calcutta or Madras.

These were the two main points that were made during the discussion. Of course, sugar cane prices were referred to by a few members. It was argued that if we had raised cane prices, the factories would have worked longer. We decided to import sugar after the factories had finished crushing. Therefore there was no question of these factories working longer. So long as cane was available the factories continued to function and this year in Bihar and East U.P. the factories worked for longer period than they had ever done.

Much has been said about the decrease of production. I think our production would have been as high this

[**Shri Kidwai**]

year as it was last year when we had produced about 15 lakh tons. But this year the cane in the Meerut Division, in Western U.P. developed some disease and therefore the yield in Western U.P. was less. It affected *gur*, sugar and *khandsari*. That is why prices went up. To meet the rising prices, it was necessary to import sugar.

As would have been seen from the statements laid on the Table in reply to several questions, at the close of August we had in the factories only about 4·4 lakh tons. That is we had already put into the market more than 13 lakh tons. Out of this 4·4 lakh tons 2 lakh tons had already been released, but for want of wagons the stock could not be sent to the market. Had they also gone to the market the stock with the factories would have remained 2 lakh tons to cover four months. Therefore in order to meet the shortage and in order also to see that hoarders did not get any advantage this sugar has been imported. If the consumption has increased, as is quite apparent, perhaps we will have to import sugar next year also, because we have to supply to the consumer his requirements and if we have to control prices, whatever is required has to be provided. Otherwise, prices will go up and if we put controls later, then the hoarder will get higher profits on account of black-marketing. This is one method of checking it and this is what we have adopted.

I think, I have explained most of the points. Mr. Rao from Andhra has raised certain points. I think he should be thankful to the Madras Government for evolving a scheme whereby the cane producer has got the minimum price and is getting part of the profit that the sugar factories in Madras have earned extra. It is calculated that they will get another three annas per maund of sugar-cane he has supplied. I have written to the Madras Government and also to the Hyderabad Government sometime in the beginning of the crushing season last year that South Indian factories are in an advantageous position. They do not produce sufficient quantities of sugar to suffice for the area they serve. Therefore, they have to compete with North Indian factories which have to incur a higher transport charges; also recovery in most of the areas in Madras is higher than in Bihar and the U.P. So the advantages that the Madras factories get should be shared by the cane-growers and the Madras Government have evolved a scheme with the co-operation of factory-owners which made it possible for the cane-growers to share the profit. As I said it is expected that they will get at least another three annas per maund for the cane they have supplied. The same scheme should have been applied to Hyderabad also, because Hyderabad sugar factories also belong to that group or association which has evolved this scheme. But it seems that the Hyderabad Government owns a large number (about 70 per cent.) in the factories and they thought more of their interest than of the cane-growers. I have again written to them and I hope they will do something to accept my suggestion.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: What is the method of distribution of imported sugar?

Shri Kidwai: The State Government of Bengal has entrusted distribution to a company which has undertaken to distribute sugar at a uniform rate throughout the State. It will be supplying sugar at 12 annas 6 pies per seer in Calcutta as well as in the remotest area and that is a reasonable price. Similar arrangements are expected to be made in Bombay; but if it is not possible, sugar will be distributed through merchants.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put to vote the cut motions relating to Demands Nos. 45, 47, and 125.

Demand No. 45. The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not ex-

Rs. 1,36,000 in respect of 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000 in respect of 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion No. 17.

The cut motion No. 17 was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: Now I take Demand No. 47. The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agricultural' be reduced by Re. 1."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100.- (Commitment of the Government to the sugar factory owners and the sugar cess.)"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: Now I will put the cut motions regarding Demand No.

[Mr. Chairman]

125 to the vote of the House. The question is:

That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced to Re. 1.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,25,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 59—INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

Mr. Chairman: We shall now take up the Demand relating to Information and Broadcasting. The cut motions have already been moved.

Shri Frank Anthony: My cut motion is that the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000 in respect of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 30,00,000 as the supplementary provision is excessive. In the explanatory memorandum, the Minister has said that the additional provision is required to meet the expenditure on the integrated publicity programme of the Five Year Plan, and the note goes on to say that the total expenditure on this integrity policy programme is estimated at about Rs. 148 lakhs, out of which the current year's expenditure will be about Rs. 38 lakhs. Quite frankly, I don't understand either the mathematics or the logic, if any, behind this demand. We are told in the explanatory memorandum that the decision to launch the programme has been taken after the budget estimates for 1953-54. It would seem that the planners were planning conscious and they were not publicity conscious. Half of the five-year period is already gone and therefore this expenditure of Rs. 148 lakhs is to be spread over a period of 2 years. Then, my question is that instead of this Rs. 38 lakhs, why did not the Ministry ask for Rs. 74 lakhs. I want to be satisfied that the plans are proceeding according to some plan and not to the rule of thumb. I agree entirely that the plan must be publicised and that it must reach down to the masses, but I am a little dubious as to whether this can be done by a process of arithmetic or by a process which the Government has been fond of—the process of multiplying expenditure by multiplying the number of officials. Many members of the ruling party have admitted that so far as the publicity side of the Plan is concerned, it has failed to enthuse the masses. What I want to assure myself is that this money will be used to the maximum advantage. I am not going to point my finger at the Ministry, but complaints have reached me—they may or may not be well-founded—that people who would not have been selected by the Union Public Service Commission, have been brought into this Ministry by a back-door so to speak—and perhaps so in other Ministries as well.—the formula is devised of bringing in people on a contract basis. I want to be certain on this because I shall try to show that a very large number of personnel is contemplated for recruitment. I want to be assured that all these people or additional staff are going to be recruited through the U.P.S.C. or are they going to be recruited from the unemployed register or is it merely going to be a process of upgrading people at present in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The complaint has been made that people who are not qualified and who would not have been selected by the U.P.S.C., have got into this Ministry by a back-door by this device of 'contract basis'.

Mr. Chairman: There is only one hour more, and fifteen minutes out of that may be required by the hon. Minister. I would, therefore, request the hon. Member to be brief.

Shri Frank Anthony: I have so far taken only 3 to 4 minutes and I will finish it in another 5 minutes or so. I will not take more than 10 minutes altogether.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, the hon. Member may proceed.

Shri Frank Anthony: I will now come to the analysis of the figures given in this booklet "Supplementary Demands for Grants". We are asked to sanction another Rs. 1,10,000 in respect of the Secretariat and the number of officers is given on page 9. I find that in this Ministry, as given in the explanatory memorandum, there

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is a very elaborate Secretariat. You have one Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries; three Under Secretaries; one Officer on Special Duty; eight Section Officers; and a whole lot of other staff. I want to know whether it is necessary to have all these additional officers: whether you want an Adviser on Rs. 2,000; a Deputy Secretary on Rs. 1,100—1,800; an Under Secretary on Rs. 800—1,150 and so on? Can you not have this Central Unit run from your existing staff? I have a feeling that you have already got a surplus of staff.

Then, with regard to advertising, you have asked us for a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs. Here again, the explanation says; "The additional provision is required for meeting the cost of designing and printing of posters, folders, etc." Now, in the summary that you published some time ago you had said that you had already undertaken this publicity or advertising in a very elaborate sort of way. In the Summary Report for 1952-53, I find that you have stated that elaborate arrangements have been made by the Bureau to release a summary of the Five Year Plan in Hindi, Gujrati, Urdu, Marathi, Tamil etc. You have also said there that follow-up stories dealing with the different sections of the Plan and the details were issued by the Bureau.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): But a summary is not a poster!

Shri Frank Anthony: But I am not very satisfied that this demand for Rs. 2 lakhs is really necessary. May I add, Sir, while on this subject of advertising, that the demand for 1953-54 has to be seen in the light of what has been already spent in previous years. Rs. 16 lakhs were spent in 1952-53 and in 1953-54 it has already gone up to Rs. 21 lakhs and 52 thousand, that is to say, an increase of Rs. 5 lakhs and 52 thousand. I do not know, therefore, whether this additional sum of Rs. 2 lakhs is really necessary.

Then, I come to the Press Information Bureau. Here again, we are asked to give an additional grant of Rs. 2 lakhs. I find that they have got an almost staggering number of persons in this Bureau. In 1952-53, they had one Principal Information Officer and one Deputy Principal Information Officer; and now they have three Deputy Principal Information Officers. In 1952-53, they had two Information Officers; now, they have six. In 1952-53 they had one Assistant Information Officer; now they have 7. There has been a, tremendous overnight inflation and yet they are asking us for another Rs. 2 lakhs to give them a few more officers. I feel that people are probably getting demoralised in the Ministry, having nothing to do but kicking their heels in emptiness. Between 1952 and 1953 you have already doubled or trebled your staff. Why do you want another Rs. 2 lakhs for a few more officers?

So far as the Films Division is concerned, we are asked to sanction a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs. I feel that this is something with which I am in agreement. It is one of the best ways of publicity. The best media to approach the masses is through films, and incidentally I may mention that I enjoyed some of the films put out by my hon. friend the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The explanation given under this head says: "For publicity through films, this Division has at the moment six units of production. These units will be increased to eleven for producing films relating to the Development Plan and River Valley Projects." That means, you already have got six units and you want to increase them to eleven. According to the figures here, Rs. 40 lakhs is the cost of six units. It works out to an average cost of Rs. 7 lakhs approximately per unit. If that is so, with Rs. 12 lakhs, you can only have two more units. Is that what you mean? That is to say, are you going to set up five more units with this money, or only two more units?

Dr. Keskar: I will explain that.

Shri Frank Anthony: Lastly, there is the Publications Division. I do not understand this. There was a reduction of about Rs. 8 lakhs in your expenditure. As I said, perhaps the planners were not publicity-conscious.

6 P.M.

There is one more item, Sir, *viz.* the Mobile Units. This is something novel and expensive and I am not disputing about Rs. 6 or Rs. 8 lakhs which I feel that the Ministry could do without. I am quite prepared to sanction the money asked for, but what I want to say is that the money should be used to the maximum advantage; all your officers should be recruited through the U.P.S.C.; and after a year, you should be able to come here and state to the House that you have been able to achieve some response from the masses. If next year, you are unable to say that, I at any rate will not be prepared to grant the money to you.

Prof. Agarwal (Wardha): Sir, I am really surprised that the money that is sought to be spent on the publicity of the Five Year Plan is not being appreciated. When I say that, I do not mean that every pie that is spent by the Government is usefully spent always. In fact, I have always held that our system of publicity is not very adequate. It is not very catchy either. Whatever I saw in some of the European countries, especially the Eastern European countries, impressed me very much. You must see how their publicity is planned; how they try to make the public plan-conscious, so that at every corner in a street you will see something about their plan. If you go to any institution or you walk into any public place, you will always feel thrilled by the various activities and their respective plans. That consciousness, I do not find here and our Five Year Plan is not known to the public even in big cities. Therefore, I have always been impressing upon the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to plan the publicity properly if the Five Year Plan is to be known to the people and if they are to feel any enthusiasm for it. The demand of a sum of Rs. 38 lakhs for a Plan which seeks to spend more than Rs. 2,000 crores is not large, especially when we look at the figures and find that most of it is for capital expenditure and not recurring expenditure. Some of it is for publicity vans. Of course, they will not be required every year, and only some other items are for recurring expenditure. What I would impress upon the Minister is this: let this money be spent in a way that the message and the details of the Plan and the schemes which affect the people, especially the community projects and the local projects, may be known to the public in a proper way. Print it in the local languages, in a simple style, in a type which is easily understandable to the people. If that is done, and if we are able to carry the message of this economic development to every village, then this money that is being sanctioned will be properly utilised. If more of it is spent on the administrative machinery and less on actual publicity in the rural areas, then we cannot say that the money has been spent in the right manner. I appreciate the feeling that so far we have not been able to do proper publicity for the Plan, and in fact, I am surprised that when I visited some of the big cities, the people there asked me where the Plan could be had. I have been telling the Planning Commission off and on that they must take proper care to print cheap editions. Even the people's edition is rather costly, I think—it is priced at Rs. 2-8-0. Let it be Re. 1. Let us even subsidise the publications. Let them be sample. I do not want them to be on costly art paper, but let them be in a simple language, in a simple style and on simple paper, and let it be in the local language, to be distributed—not necessarily freely—but at a cheap cost, so that people in every village of the country may know the Plan and what is expected of them. If that is done, I am sure the people will respond adequately. I therefore think, that the money that has been sanctioned—and sanctioned, I think, after such a long

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delay: it should have been sanctioned much earlier—is nothing too much, and we should sanction it. But we should sanction it with the comment that it should be utilised in a way which will really carry the message of the Plan to every village of this country.

Shri Damodara Menon: Sir, I am sorry I cannot agree with the previous speaker in thinking that the money we are going to allot or that we are being asked to sanction for this integrated publicity programme is as good as he feels. I am afraid it is going to be a huge waste. We are asked to spend Rs. 1 crore and 48 lakhs on what is purported to be an integrated publicity programme, and this year we are asked to sanction a sum of Rs. 38 lakhs. Their idea, as stated in this note circulated to us, is "to carry to every home in the language and symbols of the people the message of the Plan". That appears to be also the scheme of the planners. He further says that it is now proposed to carry the message of the Five Year Plan to the masses in the rural areas through field publicity units, and that is the main purpose for which this demand is now made.

Sir, we are always suffering from a kind of perversity in viewing certain things which must receive priority. It is true that the Plan must receive publicity. We have been told by many of our Congress friends that during the last elections the Congress fought mainly on the basis of the Plan and the message of the Plan was carried to every home. If that is true, there is hardly any necessity for us now to think of spending a crore and forty lakhs to carry the message of the Plan to every home as the Minister says he wants to do now.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): When the Plan is failing what else can they do?

Shri Damodara Menon: The Plan is failing and that was admitted by the Finance Minister when during the course of the discussion on the Resolution relating to the unemployment situation in the country he wanted to move an amendment and wanted the Plan to be revised.

Dr. Keskar: Does that mean failure?

Shri Frank Anthony: That shows it is dynamic.

Shri Damodara Menon: He said he is thinking in terms of revising the Plan to meet the increasing unemployment in the country. He said so when the Resolution on Unemployment was being discussed.

Now, Sir, let us wait for the final Plan. The Plan is undergoing several amendments. All these amendments are taking place in paper only. And when the final amended form of the Plan is presented to the country let us think in terms of giving publicity to it.

The hon. Minister not only wants to carry the message of the Plan to every home in the country but he wants to carry the message to foreign countries also. In item (c) he says: "Additional staff will also be required for attending on the foreign press delegations coming to India so that effective publicity is secured for the Development plan abroad". He goes one step further. The planners wanted the message of the Plan to be carried only to every home in India. But the hon. Minister wants to publicize the Plan—it is so wonderful, our Plan—and carry it to every home probably abroad also, and we are asked...

Shri K. K. Basu: To get more money.

Shri Damodara Menon: It may be. We are asked to pay huge salaries to these officers and they will go about visiting villages and publicizing the Plan. (*An hon. Member*: In foreign countries). I do not know. As has been pointed out by Mr. Anthony, the salaries that are going to be paid to these officers are really huge and at a time when the country, as has been admitted even by the Government, is passing through acute unemployment distress our Minister will have some high paid officers travelling in these mobile vans. I do not know how they are going to reach the villages. There are not enough communications. In the Centre probably there may be. But if they are to go to the villages there are not enough communications. Therefore through the main roads these vans will go. And because there is such acute unemployment they can get an audience to hear what they are saying and to see the films they are showing. Probably it is in the interests of the framers of the Plan and the Information Ministry to keep on unemployment so that they may get an audience to hear their speeches and see their films. This is a perverse attitude.

I am not saying that the Plan should not be publicized. But this is not the way we should go about giving publicity to it. The real publicity is the work we are going to do. If a person in a distant village in the South, for instance in my own village, is told what we are doing at Hirakud or in the Damodar Valley, probably he may not be enthused. But if he is told of something, some actual work to be done in his own village he will understand the Plan. He will see that a change is coming in the country and he will appreciate it. That is the best way of publicizing the Plan. Rs. 1·40 lakhs to be spent upon this mad venture is, I submit, a waste of public money which this country cannot afford.

Another thing I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is this. If instead of spending the money in this manner, they spend a part of the money on the existing media of broadcasting and other things which the Information Ministry has, it would be a good thing. For instance the Broadcasting Station at Calicut has only 1 kilowatt power. It is our standing complaint that though it is a small area—the Malayalam speaking area on the west coast—the Broadcasting Station cannot be heard.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): This is your main grievance!

Dr. Keskar: I am receiving that complaint from him now.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It is a legitimate grievance.

Shri Damodara Menon: I want publicity. You have not done much so far as the Plan is concerned. So if a part of the money is spent in developing the existing media I think it would be a good thing.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): Has he any plan like that?

Shri Damodara Menon: Not the planners. These anaemic Stations are continuing and you do not want to improve them.

There is another thing. How are you going to reach the villages? If you spend half of the money on providing receiving sets at village centres I think some of the things you are broadcasting from your station will be heard and appreciated and will reach the village folk. Instead of that you want thirty two vans, some high paid officers and you want to have six zones. How are you going to reach every home in a country like ours with six zonal units? Are we mad to think that with six zonal units we can reach every village in this vast country? It is only for the pleasure of some officers to take some odd photographs here and there, all in a holiday mood, and we are asked to pay for it. It is a huge waste, and I oppose this grant.

Shri T. N. Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think this time it is my pleasure to give my unqualified support to this move. It is not always necessary to be critical; at times things may have to be supported. I will say why I am supporting this. Because I feel that what is very necessary is that the man in the street, the man in the village, should know what is to be done and what is being done. And one of the things I want the Information Ministry to keep in mind in this new scheme, and in which they

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should make a departure, is to see that there is no deviation from fact and truth in whatever statement or propaganda or anyhing that is done by this section. I think that is one of the greatest contributions which this venture, this new scheme, can make to the whole set-up. It is my faith and I have sufficient reason to believe that this will be one of the principal approaches of this propaganda scheme, and that is one of the principal reasons why I whole-heartedly support it. I would appeal to every section of the House to insist—let this scheme go ahead with full steam—that in every hand out or propaganda done through this agency, it will be seen that the villager is told the truth and the facts. If there are shortcomings,—I know probably we may not reach the target, we may not be able to do things in time—there is no harm. Even in China, of which some of us on this side are very much enamoured, I have heard that they said: this is the target; this is the capacity of production; let us do 60 per cent. and we shall be satisfied. There was no criticism on that ground. Unfortunately, here we always think of 100 per cent. perfection and no shortcoming. Let us take note of all these imperfections, imperfections of our men, imperfections of our machinery, and say, frankly, we were able to do this much only. If there are shortcomings, let us have criticism: but not in a spirit of turning round. That is the spirit in which we should approach this question. I have every reason to believe that this is the scheme on which we are going to launch and that is my only reason for giving my wholehearted support to this. I ask all sections of the House to give their blessing to this measure.

I have always felt that our Information and Broadcasting Ministry has probably not given so much attention to propaganda and spread of information in the villages as it should. I think, therefore, that this is a proposal in the right direction because we are really going to make a well thought out approach to the villages, that is, mostly through visual propaganda, the film. As experience has shown the film is probably the best medium for telling our people what is being done and what is not being done, and what we want to do. This we must tell them in the most effective manner. I think the major part of the expenditure is going to be incurred on visual propaganda and I think that is the best thing to do. That is another reason why I give my whole-hearted support to this demand. The usual method is printing a lakh of small books and distributing them. In a huge country of 400 million people, it reaches not even 1 per cent. or half a per cent. or even .05 per cent. of the people. Sometimes, that is mostly thrown into some corner. There also I think this is the right method. Let us not be unnecessarily critical or oppose anything that comes up. That is not the right spirit. With these words I support the Demand.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): Mr. Chairman, we have moved two cut motions to oppose this Demand, numbers 27 and 31, to discuss the necessity of providing such a colossal amount at this stage. When after 2½ years of the working of this Plan, we see the unemployment question assuming such staggering proportions and when there are so many famine-stricken people, people starving, the Government of the day has come forward with this Plan for elaborate propaganda about the Five-year Plan. We know that already there exists a huge publicity organisation at the disposal of the Central Government as well as at the disposal of the State Governments. These State Governments have got their own weeklies, their publicity organisations and publicity officers. There are so many journals through which they are publicising their Plan day in and day out. What is the necessity of providing this huge sum of Rs. 38 lakhs out of Rs. 1,48,00,000 for the duration of the Plan? We know that already there is a provision of Rs. 1,02,64,000 for the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting. This, of course, is exclusive of another sum of Rs. 2,28,00,000 provided for Broadcasting purposes. We know from the talks over the Radio that there is already a lot of propaganda about the Five-Year Plan. At this stage, what is the necessity of this elaborate arrangement for publicity of this Five-Year Plan?

We do not wonder, because we know and we hear from all quarters that the very Plan has been questioned, and that it has failed. The only purpose of this publicity organisation is to prop up a thing which has already failed, and thereby somehow to create an impression upon the mind of the people that the Plan which has failed and which they themselves are thinking of revising, has not actually failed, but has achieved something. It has been said in the relevant portion of the Plan itself that the people can understand the Plan only in reference to the local programmes. What is the local programme? I am not surprised when I hear from Professor Agarwal that even after this period, even in the big cities people do not know what the Plan is. How can they know? Because, there is nothing which they can know through experience. We know that there are certain river valley projects, the Chittaranjan factory, the Telephone automatisation and certain community projects. But, even if we include them all and consider the areas of operation of the Plan, it touches only a very small part of the country. How can people of a particular area, where there is no community project, where they see tremendous flood havoc and famine, when they see that the unemployment position is becoming worse while they thought that the Plan will reduce unemployment to a certain extent, realise that these river valley projects are going to bring any benefit to them?

They say that there is a sense of priorities and when the people come to know that the sense of priority is there in the Plan, they will come to know what role they have to play in relation to the Plan. What is this sense of priorities? We the people of West Bengal have seen that for the purpose of automatisation of telephones, they have spent 14 crores of rupees according to the figures given in answer to a question. The people in the villages question this. They ask, "why cannot the scheme of automatisation wait for 5 or 10 years more?" When people have no food, when there is terrible flood havoc, when they have no land, if you go with your mobile units and show the films, posters, exhibits, etc., they will see that what is being professed is contrary to their experience. You ask them to build a school. They know that they will only put in labour, but they will not be able to send their children to the school because they cannot meet the cost of the education. You ask them to build a road. But, these people the workers in the factories and the agriculturists and poor peasants know that this is not going to bring food to them. Therefore, the first thing that has got to be done is to make a people's plan. If you want to create real enthusiasm among the people, your plan must be a people's plan. If the people realise that it is a plan made by them and it is a plan for them, and it is to be executed by them, then only they will come forward to work it heart and soul. We know that you now go to the people 2½ years after the Plan was made. When the Plan was made, they were not consulted. We know from the answer to a question in the Council of States that the Plan was, as a matter of fact, made up departmentally by the bureaucratic officials. From the Plan itself we know that only as late as March 1950, the Planning Commission was set up. By July, a kind of draft was ready. How can it be that this big Plan was made ready in the course of three months? We know also that a part of the Plan, that is the river valley projects, was already being executed. From all these facts, we find that there is nothing in the Plan to evoke the enthusiam in the people, because the people are not going to

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benefit by this. If you want to create enthusiasm in the people, you have to change the Plan and modify it in such a manner that the people may derive direct benefit from it and in its day to day execution they see that the Plan is really for their help. Only in that case will they be interested. Only such a Plan can be supported, and then publicity for that purpose can also be supported. Sir. I oppose the Grant.

Shrimati Jayashri (Bombay—Suburban): I am surprised to hear the criticism made by some of the Members who want to run down the achievements made during this Five-Year Plan period by our country. They would praise the programmes and achievements of countries like China and Russia, but when we want to show our achievements, they think that we are wasting money on this Plan.

Sir, I myself have seen some documentraies in which the health programme such as keeping our wells clean and the B.C.G. programme are shown. I myself have felt very enthusiastic and I think that I learnt more by seeing these films than I should have by reading in books. I think this is the best way of educating our masses. We know that in the olden days we had knowledge imparted through Srutis, and that is how I should say till now we have heard about Puran stories and Srutis, and that is the best way of imparting knowledge to the villagers and the masses.

The hon. Member who spoke before me said that this is not our people's plan. May I know what he would call a people's plan?

An Hon. Member: Russian plan.

Shrimati Jayashri: When we want to teach social customs, when we want to remove some superstitions and bring improvements in the social customs, these documentaries and films. I think, are the best method by which we can preach these social customs. Broadcasting and radio are the best way, and I should say the most interesting method, of imparting knowledge to children as well as illiterates. In most of the schools at present they are trying to show films which will give the children knowledge about geography, history and also about the various industrial developments that are taking place in our country. This is the right kind of method for imparting knowledge to students also. So, I should whole-heartedly support this Demand for expanding our Information and Broadcasting programme in the Five-Year Plan. This is the best way of doing publicity for the Plan. I support this.

Dr. Keskar: Before I reply to the specific points raised by various friends in the House, I would like to say a few words as a preliminary so that I need not repeat them in arguments to counter every one of the arguments presented by my friends opposite regarding the scheme for integrated publicity for the Five-Year Plan.

The Plan was debated in this House, rather the underlying principles of the Plan were thoroughly thrashed out and the House passed them by an over-whelming majority, and therefore...

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: In December, 1952.

Dr. Keskar: It does not matter. It was passed by this House and it has not again been countered by this House, and therefore that must be considered as the will of the House even though my friend opposite might not like it. And I might, Sir, with your permission, read only one sentence from the Plan which will explain the integrated publicity that we are presenting here. The Planning Commission in their final report say:

> "A widespread understanding of the Plan is an essential stage in its fulfilment. It will help large numbers of persons to appreciate the main lines on which development

> is expected to proceed over the next few years... All available methods of communication have to be developed and people approached..."

so that they understand the meaning of the Plan. I can understand friends on the opposite side saying that they do not agree with the Plan, therefore there should be no publicity for the Plan. But, as I said, this House has accepted the Plan and as such publicity for the Plan is a concomitant and an accessory which is absolutely essential. We have got here a Plan in which the Government proposes to spend more than Rs. 2,000 crores, in which practically no aspect of our national life has been left out, and it is probably the stepping stone to the economic prosperity of this country. Whether you agree with all the aspects of the Plan or not, whether you consider the Plan to be completely fool-proof and completely faultless or not, the Plan is a big thing and it is something which, if we want to be successfully accomplished, has not only to be understood by the people, but has also to be actively helped by the people. And it is for that purpose, absolutely essential that the Plan—not only its idea, but the basic principles of the Plan--should be put before the people in as concrete a shape as possible.

The speciality of this integrated publicity plan is, and it has been explained to some extent in the Order Paper here, that we do not propose to lay emphasis on the educated or literate public. For the first time, we are trying, we are making a concerted effort, to reach the masses of the people in the villages and in the country side, and it is for this reason that you find that emphasis has been laid more on audio-visual publicity—because in the country the majority of the people are not literate, and therefore this is a better way to reach them. And therefore you will find in this that much of the expenditure that is proposed here is for audio-visual publicity.

There has been criticism that this plan for publicity is coming a little too late. I do agree that the plan for publicity should have been launched much earlier. But that is no argument for saying that publicity should not be launched now because you have not launched it up till this time. No doubt, in preparation of this Plan, emphasis has not been laid on the publicity methods, and also on the publicity plan because we ourselves do not wish to have so much publicity. We also believe with my friend Mr. Damodara Menon that work is probably the best publicity, but at the same time work that is done in this corner is not visible to a person in the other corner. Whatever we do in a constructive way has to be made known to the people. We do not believe in publicity which puts wrong facts before them. We believe in publicity which gives correct facts to the people. We also lay emphasis on work first and making known the work afterwards. And that is one of the reasons why for the publicity plan for a Five-Year Plan which proposes to spend more than Rs. 2,000 crores there is demand this year of only Rs. 38 lakhs, which ultimately might go, as the proposal is, later up to Rs. 148 lakhs. It might appear enormous to certain people. My friends talk of the enormous sums of money spent on publicity here. But if you look into the amount spent on publicity in the countries which they always put before us as models here, you will find that they spend ten times more on their plans or their achievements. I do not grudge that. Let them do it. We do not do publicity on such a scale, exactly for the reason...

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Do it provided it is a people's plan.

Dr. Keskar: This is what I consider to be a people's plan. We consider this to be a people's plan and if my hon. friend is not convinced that it is a people's plan, let him go and convince the people that it is not their plan. (*Interruption*). I might say that the argument that he has advanced is one of the reasons why we are obliged to do a little publicity for the plan, because some of my friends opposite take a lot of effort to go to the countryside and tell people 'Well, this plan is no good. Do not try to implement it'

[Dr. Keskar]

Otherwise, probably our necessity for publicity would have been a little less.

The publicity plan, as I said, is on a very modest scale. As I reply to some of the objections raised by Mr. Anthony, I would like to say that some of the items which he considers very big are not so big as he thinks them to be. You have to take into consideration first of all the immensity of the target. I do not say that we try to reach through this publicity plan or the machinery that we are going to put up now every single village in India. First of all, you have to remember that this plan will be carried out in co-ordination with the State Governments. This is not a plan that the Central Government alone are going to carry out. The expenditure that is given here is the expenditure that we are going to incur. Very soon we will have talks—probably next week—with representatives of the State Governments and a concerted plan will be made in co-ordination with them. It is only in co-ordination with the State Governments that we can hope to reach the largest number of people all over the country. And if you see the immense target that we have, you will have to accept that the expenditure that we are proposing before you is very little.

Let me draw your attention, first of all, to the fact that a very large part of the expenditure is non-recurring. For example, the expenditure on mobile units is an expenditure which is non-recurring. A very large part of the expenditure on the Films Division is also non-recurring, because quite a big amount will go for new equipment which will be needed and which will be used in later years also. So my point is that in the present demand the amount of non-recurring expenditure is pretty large. The recurring expenditure is not so great as Mr. Anthony was making out or fears it is. One of the reasons why you will find the particular demand to be much larger than we would have liked it ordinarily to be is that as we propose to reach people in practically every part of the country, a large amount of publicity will be done in the regional languages, and as the number of regional languages is very large, whether it is in films or whether it is in pamphlets, we propose to have them in every language and in adequate numbers. It is that which means larger amount of expenditure than what we would have originally planned.

Mr. Anthony has tried to pick holes in the demand. First of all, he has said: why in two or three years? The reason is that the concrete and final shape to the Plan was not given three years back. It had been given only last year. The Plan, or rather some aspects of the Plan, were already being implemented and work was being done on various projects. At the same time, the picture of the Plan, as a whole, was given a concrete and final shape only last year after the Government brought a motion before this House which was debated and passed by this House. Therefore, it is not as if without having a concrete and final shape to the Plan first, we give publicity to the Plan. Publicity was given to various items in the Plan which were being constructed. But that kind of disjointed publicity does not give a complete picture or does not put the whole picture before the public. And that is the reason why we feel it necessary that now that the whole Plan is before the public, now that we are coming to what we consider the peak period of the planning work, now is the time to go to the public and tell them what the Plan is, what it means to them and what it is doing for them. That is the reason for the delay. I also wish with Mr. Anthony that we could have done this much earlier, but because it is a little late is no argument for not doing it now. It is never too late.

He has said that the publicity has not enthused the masses. I do agree with him entirely. I am for publicity which will put some enthusiasm in the masses. But for a publicity which will carry enthusiasm, which will use all media, we will have to spend a large amount of money, as many foreign countries are doing, and we do not want to spend money on publicity which can be usefully spared for other work; otherwise, I would certainly side with Mr. Anthony that we should have large scale publicity which will put enthusiasm in the masses.

He is rather critical that a number of people have been recruited in this Ministry by the back door. As far as the five-year publicity plan is concerned, let me assure him that recruitment will be done according to established method. If he likes, I will get a certificate from the UPSC to assure him that things have been all above board. As for people being brought in by the back door before, I would certainly be glad to look into the cases which he considers have come by the back door, and I always stand ready to correction. I do not feel, like some other people, that we are all faultless. There might be some things which might not have been correct, but I am ready to look into any cases that Mr. Anthony would like to put before me of irregular recruitment, as he calls it.

He thinks that the Ministry is overstaffed. Well, Sir, that is a way of looking at things. He thinks so. What staff is necessary for doing a particular work is something which will have to be gone into in detail, and it is not possible for me to give the reasons why I consider that it not only is not overstaffed but is pretty under-staffed, as I know to my cost, because I have to work a little harder. But I might tell him that as far as the five-year publicity plan is concerned, the staff has been pared down to the minimum. We will not employ one single person more than is necessary.

Regarding the other points that he has made, as far as the film unit is concerned, he has asked: why so much of expenditure on the film unit, when for 6 units you spend a particular sum and for having two or three more units you are spending a larger sum? Now, generally speaking, as far as the films that we used to prepare up till now were concerned, a certain number of copies were prepared. But in view of the larger target of publicity that we have and in view of the fact that most films will be prepared in all the regional languages, we will have to prepare a very much larger number of copies, and each copy costs. That is one of the main reasons for the larger cost of the units that will prepare copies for the five-year publicity plan.

Shri Frank Anthony: On a point of explanation. My point was that according to your previous estimate you had not budgeted for a sufficient amount. Six units had cost Rs. 40 lakhs whereas you have only asked for Rs. 12 lakhs with which you could get two, and not five, units.

Dr. Keskar: It is not a question of units. The unit is not an independent body. You have got a working division in which quite a number of things will be common. When you are working, you add something. It does not mean you duplicate what exists. Only certain things are added. That also has to be borne in mind.

But the rise in expenditure is due mainly to the very large number of copies prepared in the regional languages.

Regarding the question of publicity, Mr. Agarwala has mentioned that we are not giving adequate publicity. I do agree; I myself feel that we should give more publicity to what we are doing and by publicity I mean putting the facts before the public and not trying to beat your own drum. I would say that publicity is something which should be avoided but we live in an age of publicity and it cannot be considered that publicity is the prerogative of the Opposition. If the opposition also tries to publicise what they consider to be the faults of the Government or its misdoings, I think government is also entitled to put the correct things before the public and a correct perspective also. I think these are reciprocal things but Government tries to minimise its publicity and tries to put facts before the public. I must say that if you compare the publicity organisations of our Government with those of other governments, we are probably doing hardly any propaganda as such

[Dr. Keskar]

in fact, our ordinary publicity units in the Ministry are spending in all about 87 lakhs of rupees, and if you deduct from it 35 lakhs of rupees which we earn as income, we are spending only about 52 lakhs of rupees on what can be called publicity. Now, for a government which is spending more than 400 crores of rupees on the ordinary Budget, I think no reasonable person can call it publicity. It is really an apology for publicity. But, we do not believe in the type of publicity that certain countries indulge in. We only try to put a few facts before the public because of the important nature of the Plan and the vital place it occupies in the future of the country. We have felt that a slightly greater effort is needed to put before the public what probably is the Plan that this country has organised for its future.

Sir, I am just finishing. I have to reply to one or two other points. My friend Mr. Damodara Menon has said that work is better than publicity. I entirely agree with him. We are spending this amount not to say what the Government is doing is good but to put before the public what the Government is doing and let the public judge afterwards. If we really made an effort at publicity as it is conceived by various countries, we would have spent many times the amount that we are spending in this Plan.

As for the point that he made regarding the Five-Year Plan that we are changing, I do not see how that comes in the way of publicity of the Five-Year Plan. Do you want to have a static plan which must not change according to circumstances? I think we should have rather a dynamic plan, a plan which can be changed according to circumstances. But, that does not change either the objective or the main lines of the Plan, and I hope my friend the Finance Minister will agree with me that a change in the Plan may give even greater strength to the Plan.

Lastly, Sir, one more point. Mr. Chaudhury was saying it is a huge publicity organisation. Sir, one can use adjectives very easily. I cannot reply using another adjective. I would only ask him to compare in detail this with the other publicity organisations which exist elsewhere and let the facts speak for themselves. He claims that the Plan has failed. I am very glad that he has informed me of the failure of the Plan. I wish he would go and try to convince the public that the Plan has failed. In any case, I am glad that he has that assurance to console himself. But we believe that the Plan has not only not failed but the Plan is succeeding and I am quite sure that the Plan will succeed still more.

Sir, I do not want to take more time. This is all that I have to say on the various points raised by my hon. friends.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I have permission to withdraw my cut motion?

Mr. Chairman: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion No. 25?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the cut motions to vote.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

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Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100.".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the demand to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,30,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 133

Mr. Chairman: Let us now take up Demand No. 133. Cut motions Nos. 6, 7 and 40 have been allowed and taken as moved.

Shri Vittal Rao: Mr. Chairman, while commending the cut motions that I have moved, I wish to make a few observations. At long last the Government have decided to do away with the contract system in the railway collieries. But they say they will do away with the thing from 1st April, 1954. I do not know why we should wait for the 1st of April 1954 and why not straightaway do away with it here and now. For example, when 6 years ago this contract system was abolished in the Singareni collieries, there were about 17,000 workers working there. When under the pressure of the Union the management had agreed to the abolition of the contract system......

Shri K. C. Reddy: The Singareni collieries do not come under railway collieries.

Shri Vittal Rao: I only cite this as an example to show that when they arrived at a decision to do away with the contract system they did not wait even for a day. For the last 7 years it is working departmentally. Similarly, here also the contract system could have been easily removed because this is a grievance which has been pending for a very long time. And, now I do not know what difficulties are confronting the Production Ministry to work it departmentally. We should know that already the coal miners are working under a great handicap. Their work is very arduous and hazardous. On the top of all this, these middle people, the contractors exploit them. So, I would strongly urge that the contract system should be removed here and now. Let us begin from 1st October. This is a demand pending for a long time.

Then I take up the question of housing. Only a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for, and that too out of the savings to be made. Now, there are about 25000 workers in the railway collieries. I do not exactly know how many are housed; a great many are not housed and have not got quarters. If we go at the rate of 5 lakhs per year they will get at the most only 150 houses and by the time the remaining colliery workers are housed it will be 50 years according to the programme suggested and the money provided.

Then I come to the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission for the railway colliery workers. Sir, originally these railway colliery workers were getting the Central Pay Commission scales for a long time and they were getting the same grain concessions as the railway workers. Thereafter sometime in the year 1950 great injustice was done to them. They have referred the case of the railway colliery workers to the Industrial Tribunal whether they should get the same grain concessions as were allowed to the other railway workers. The Industrial Tribunal,

[Shri Vittal Rao]

taking into consideration the other collieries, the market collieries, have brought these railway colliery workers also on a par with the market colliery workers with respect to these concessions. So, the concessions have been cut. When the Government is the employer in these railway collieries, they should set up ideal conditions. They should be an ideal employer. Now, there are nearly 3,60,000 workers in the collieries all over India; there are about 1000 collieries and in many collieries which are owned by other employers, when we tell them to abolish the contract system on the plea that the Government have agreed in principle, they turn round and ask, 'if they have agreed in principle why should they not implement the same thing in their own collieries'. This is the same case in regard to housing and in regard to pay scales also. They ask us, 'Have the Government implemented these; let them do so and we will follow'. Now, Sir, for these reasons I very strongly urge that the case of these railway collieries be not sent to the Industrial Tribunal that is proposed to be appointed for the colliery workers. Let the scales of pay recommended by the Central Pay Commission be implemented.

Shri K. P Tripathi (Darrang): Mr. Chairman, I welcome this gradual conversion of collieries by abolishing the contract system. I have just come back from the collieries and I can tell you, Sir, that when this news was flashed in the newspapers, there was great jubilation in the collieries. Therefore I think it is a step in the right direction. This contract system has been an evil and I think that the sooner it is abolished from all collieries the better. In one colliery in which I went recently I was told that when they work there for six days, five days' wages were paid to the workers and one day's wages were taken away by the contractor. So you see what evil may lie in this system. The system is pernicious and the sooner it is done away with, the better, not only in the collieries, but I feel that wherever there is permanent work carried on from day to day, the contract system should not be allowed there. The contract system should be abolished therefrom.

I am very glad that the Minister is taking some grant from the House for the purpose of housing. As my friend Mr. Rao has pointed out, the money which you have budgeted is too small a sum for the purpose and for the programme which will be carried through. Recently I was shown some housing in a colliery called Victoria Colliery. I was told that the tradition of housing in collieries is almost the same. The houses look like hovels or tunnels or caves, and each house had a row of rooms. Each room was eight feet by 24 feet. Do you know how many people were living there? There were 30 persons living there, and the whole floor was broken up. I asked them: "how do you sleep here?" They said they had to sleep there. There were also two women living, two women living with 30 men. These men were working in shifts. So you will see, Sir, that these collieries house people in the way in which promiscuity might be promoted. I saw similar things in some of the plantations in South India when I visited there. Therefore, I say that housing is one of the most important problems of collieries and plantations. Until and unless you look into them, you will not be able to solve the problem of labour in either of these industries. I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the collieries as well as plantations developed out of slave labour and therefore the vestiges of slavery have not gone away. Therefore, as soon as you take this problem in your hands, you will have to develop the units as models. If you develop them as models it would be incumbent on private owners to develop their collieries also in the right way. They may also have to abolish this contract system in those operations where they are continuing contract system, and they will have to provide better housing. The housing programme which was announced by Govt. from year to year has not been taken advantage of by the employers. What is the reason? The reason has to be found out and if you try to find out the reason you will see that all these industries which were floated hundred years ago are under-capitalised. They do not want to expand their capital and for this reason they want to continue the housing as it is. If you continue as it is there is no hope of raising the standard of labour, and if you do not raise the standard of labour, then you cannot compare the production of your labour with the production of the west—in U.K. and the United States. In the United States, for the last 40 years, there has been a continued rise in the production at the rate of three per cent. per year. That was not done only by labour. That was done also by the mechanical and technical improvements, by the higher wages, by the improved conditions of labour, etc., and this is very necessary. We have been listening about certain schemes whereby the Government of India have invited technicians from the I. L. O. in order to find out how productivity can be increased. The more I study the conditions of labour in India the more I find that productivity cannot be increased until and unless the living conditions, wage conditions and working conditions are improved.

7 P.M.

The main reason why our labour produces so low is this: that it is underfed, under-housed, under-nourished, has bad living and working conditions. Therefore, I would request you, Sir, to note that the step you take today is a movement in the right direction. You will just try to have a taste of how a colliery has to be managed. You are trying to have model schemes. I would request the Production Minister particularly to go on to the management of other industries also so that he might have an idea as to how other industries should be managed so that models might be held forth in other industries also. Then only it would be possible to develop the private sector which is adamant and will not change. I would request you, Sir, to consider one point which I feel strongly. Other industries have been there for the last hundred years. I am not talking of the new industries, but about the industries which were floated and have been for the last hundred years, which have enjoyed their capital over and over again so that in dividends alone they have realised the entire capital floated several times over. It is for you now to lay down minimum conditions of labour and if these industries do not provide the minimum conditions of labour, then it is time that the Ministry should bring forward legislation that any unit which does not provide this minimum condition shall not draw dividends. If you do not prevent the dividends, there is no way by which you can force these units to give minimum conditions as you desire. Therefore I really welcome this measure and I think it would be a measure out of which the Ministry would derive experience and hold forth a model for others to follow and it will be a measure also for the Ministry to study the economics of the industry with a view to finding out how best it may promote better living conditions, working conditions and wage conditions so that the conditions of labour in India might be something comparable—gardually comparable—-to those obtaining in the west. It is in this way that we can raise the conditions of our labour and hold forth our head before the world. Otherwise, there is no other way. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am very glad to find that the proposal to abolish contract labour and replace it by departmental labour has been welcomed in this House. The only point that

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

has been made is that this replacement of contract labour by departmental labour in the remaining two collieries out of the eleven railway collieries should be done here and now, and should not be postponed till 1st April, 1954. The House will appreciate the fact that after the Government of India took a policy decision that contract labour should be replaced by departmental labour, this has been given effect to in nine railway collieries already. The two remaining railway collieries, Bokaro and Kargali, are the biggest railway collieries employing a large corps of labour. It is easily said when it is stated that it is better to do it at once, that it has to be done here and now. But it is not possible to do so. We have got to take certain preliminary steps before we can do so effectively and satisfactorily. That is why we have fixed the target date, as 1st April, 1954, and before that date we want to put up the necessary buildings and other arrangements have also to be made, if we have to replace this contract system by the departmental system as already announced. It is for the purpose of putting up the necessary buildings, etc., that we have asked for the token supplementary grant which covers a new service. So, Sir, I hope there would not be any impatience at the fact that we are doing this about six or seven months later. If we are able to do it, I think we can congratulate ourselves that we have done it in a fairly quick time.

Regarding the other point namely, housing, I wish to say straightway that there can be no two opinions on the suggestions that have been expressed by the hon. Members who have just now spoken. I realise the necessity for proper housing of our labour wherever they are working. I also subscribe to the view that the more contented the labour corps we have the more efficient they will be and the better will be their production in our industries. There can be no two opinions about that. I can also freely confess that so far as housing is concerned for the railway colliery labour leave alone the other collieries, we have unfortunately for various reasons beyond our control not made as satisfactory arrangements, or as satisfactory progress as we would have liked to make. Government is keenly alive to the fact that the housing conditions of colliery labour leave much to be desired and there is great necessity for providing proper housing for railway colliery labour. The programme that we have now before us is a very modest one, I concede. In 1953-54 we propose to complete 124 houses and in 1954-55 we propose to put up another 362 houses. We have to put up a large number of houses before we can say that we have provided satisfactory accommodation to all our railway colliery labour.

Hitherto the policy was for the Ministry of Labour to take up this work and utilise the fund available in the Welfare Cess Fund. They were depending only on that source. But now we have changed that policy. The Railway Ministry are now the owners of these collieries, but the ownership will be transferred very shortly to the Production Ministry. We are considering a plan as to how best to provide the necessary number of houses for all our colliery labour and I have every hope that this programme, ambitious as it may be called by some, but which is very necessary in the interest of labour and in the interest of the industry will be satisfactorily implemented in as early a period as possible. I need not say more about it at this stage.

With regard to the third point, namely, the implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission, so far as the railway colliery labour is concerned, I wish to say a few words. The Central Pay Commission's recommendations do not apply to casual workers and daily rated weekly paid workers. It refers only to daily rated monthly paid workers. There are 237 categories of such workers in the railway collieries. Out of these 237 categories, the Pay Commission's recommendations have been accepted and have been given effect to in respect of 159 categories. In respect of another 22 categories, Sir, the Ministry of Production has sent up a proposal to the Ministry of Finance and it is expected that the final decisions of the Ministry of Finance will be available at a very early date. With regard to 43 other categories also, proposals have gone to the Ministry of Finance and we are expecting a finalisation of this also at a very early date. So, Sir, only 13 categories more are left. In regard to them we are expecting recommendations from the Coal Commissioner and as soon as those recommendations are received, Government will be quick to pass orders thereon. It will be seen, therefore, in regard to a large number of categories, the Pay Commission's recommendations have already been given effect to. It is only in the case of a few categories that final action is yet due and I can give an assurance to this House that final orders with regard to those remaining categories also will be passed at a very early date.

These are the three points that were covered by hon. members who spoke on the cut motions. I hope the answer that I have given is fairly satisfactory and the cut motions will not be pressed.

Mr. Chairman: I shall put the cut motions to the vote of the House.

The question is:

> "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Production' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

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The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1954 in respect of 'Capital Outlay for the Ministry of Production.' "

The motion was adopted.

THE APPROPRIATION (No. 4) BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54."

The motion was adopted.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I introduce the Bill.

I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1953-54 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule, Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Wednesday, the 16th September, 1953.